

The
John Jay Pittman Collection
Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One

October 21-23, 1997

Catalogued and Sold By
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

The John Jay Pittman Collection
Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One

October 21-23, 1997

Number 110 of 250

Gehrung C. Pittman

Gehrung C. Pittman

David W. Akers

David W. Akers

Thomas A. Mulvaney

Thomas A. Mulvaney

Donald L. Slopman

Donald L. Slopman

Prices Realized

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One



October 21-23, 1997

Catalogued and Sold By
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

Total Prices Realized: \$11,820,512.00

Prices Realized

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	121,000.00	47	429.00	93	385.00	139	1,210.00
2	330.00	48	.825.00	94	198.00	140	8,800.00
3	330.00	49	.440.00	95	192.50	141	4,950.00
4	154.00	50	1,100.00	96	198.00	142	1,100.00
5	1,100.00	51	.742.50	97	1,650.00	143	2,640.00
6	1,210.00	52	2,420.00	98	.715.00	144	16,500.00
7	1,166.00	53	.577.50	99	.770.00	145	.990.00
8	.825.00	54	.605.00	100	.550.00	146	5,500.00
9	.770.00	55	.935.00	101	.605.00	147	6,050.00
10	.660.00	56	.385.00	102	.440.00	148	2,310.00
11	.715.00	57	.660.00	103	.605.00	149	5,500.00
12	.770.00	58	.396.00	104	.605.00	150	6,600.00
13	.825.00	59	.357.50	105	.154.00	151	5,225.00
14	.770.00	60	.522.50	106	.154.00	152	12,100.00
15	132,000.00	61	1,430.00	107	4,400.00	153	2,090.00
16	.990.00	62	1,320.00	108	1,320.00	154	4,950.00
17	.770.00	63	.770.00	109	.825.00	155	7,975.00
18	.220.00	64	.605.00	110	2,200.00	156	6,600.00
19	.880.00	65	8,250.00	111	2,640.00	157	1,100.00
20	.330.00	66	3,850.00	112	.330.00	158	2,420.00
21	.357.50	67	2,640.00	113	.357.50	159	4,675.00
22	1,320.00	68	8,250.00	114	.187.00	160	.935.00
23	.770.00	69	3,190.00	115	.660.00	161	7,150.00
24	.302.50	70	2,420.00	116	2,200.00	162	7,700.00
25	17,600.00	71	2,200.00	117	1,320.00	163	4,675.00
26	1,430.00	72	4,400.00	118	.715.00	164	7,700.00
27	.467.50	73	3,575.00	119	.4,675.00	165	.880.00
28	.247.50	74	3,080.00	120	.715.00	166	3,300.00
29	1,760.00	75	2,860.00	121	.13,750.00	167	5,500.00
30	.550.00	76	1,100.00	122	.4,675.00	168	.770.00
31	.275.00	77	.770.00	123	.3,575.00	169	5,225.00
32	.990.00	78	1,430.00	124	.2,860.00	170	.264.00
33	.770.00	79	1,210.00	125	.4,950.00	171	.825.00
34	.198.00	80	.935.00	126	.1,540.00	172	5,225.00
35	.247.50	81	3,080.00	127	.4,675.00	173	1,320.00
36	.176.00	82	.220.00	128	.3,080.00	174	.550.00
37	2,640.00	83	.99.00	129	.440.00	175	.522.50
38	.275.00	84	.110.00	130	.3,300.00	176	.330.00
39	.330.00	85	.220.00	131	.1,870.00	177	.990.00
40	1,540.00	86	.880.00	132	.5,225.00	178	5,500.00
41	1,210.00	87	.522.50	133	.330.00	179	.385.00
42	.660.00	88	.176.00	134	.1,650.00	180	1,870.00
43	.660.00	89	.132.00	135	2,640.00	181	1,540.00
44	.385.00	90	.385.00	136	.132.00	182	.143.00
45	.357.50	91	.385.00	137	.187.00	183	1,650.00
46	.522.50	92	.440.00	138	.330.00	184	2,420.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
185	1,045.00	232	2,200.00	279	198.00	326	467.50
186	440.00	233	4,125.00	280	198.00	327	550.00
187	1,650.00	234	440.00	281	5,500.00	328	467.50
188	1,320.00	235	16,500.00	282	6,050.00	329	66.00
189	2,640.00	236	577.50	283	1,540.00	330	220.00
190	660.00	237	9,350.00	284	357.50	331	55.00
191	605.00	238	1,760.00	285	357.50	332	154.00
192	440.00	239	2,640.00	286	302.50	333	330.00
193	2,420.00	240	2,200.00	287	495.00	334	154.00
194	660.00	241	1,870.00	288	2,420.00	335	467.50
195	660.00	242	2,200.00	289	412.50	336	154.00
196	19,800.00	243	1,320.00	290	308.00	337	66.00
197	825.00	244	1,320.00	291	110.00	338	330.00
198	385.00	245	1,100.00	292	1,045.00	339	110.00
199	357.50	246	880.00	293	77.00	340	143.00
200	1,320.00	247	3,850.00	294	1,870.00	341	187.00
201	4,675.00	248	247.50	295	198.00	342	88.00
202	29,700.00	249	8,800.00	296	176.00	343	550.00
203	1,650.00	250	4,950.00	297	357.50	344	176.00
204	275.00	251	330.00	298	522.50	345	1,210.00
205	17,600.00	252	412.50	299	1,045.00	346	880.00
206	154.00	253	5,225.00	300	935.00	347	2,200.00
207	132.00	254	154.00	301	1,210.00	348	990.00
208	198.00	255	302.50	302	220.00	349	825.00
209	6,600.00	256	247.50	303	825.00	350	715.00
210	5,500.00	257	22,000.00	304	198.00	351	1,320.00
211	220.00	258	550.00	305	220.00	352	3,850.00
212	1,320.00	259	2,860.00	306	1,430.00	353	1,265.00
213	275.00	260	110.00	307	3,850.00	354	632.50
214	1,430.00	261	522.50	308	467.50	355	990.00
215	660.00	262	495.00	309	66.00	356	825.00
216	9,900.00	263	467.50	310	2,860.00	357	495.00
217	385.00	264	1,870.00	311	88.00	358	1,320.00
218	935.00	265	385.00	312	3,575.00	359	1,045.00
219	2,420.00	266	14,300.00	313	121.00	360	330.00
220	1,870.00	267	209.00	314	1,760.00	361	1,210.00
221	467.50	268	3,960.00	315	198.00	362	990.00
222	24,200.00	269	1,210.00	316	825.00	363	550.00
223	275.00	270	357.50	317	770.00	364	357.50
224	495.00	271	4,950.00	318	132.00	365	440.00
225	286.00	272	495.00	319	1,870.00	366	660.00
226	176.00	273	825.00	320	440.00	367	935.00
227	4,125.00	274	357.50	321	2,420.00	368	330.00
228	825.00	275	467.50	322	99.00	369	1,320.00
229	357.50	276	132.00	323	467.50	370	1,320.00
230	412.50	277	12,100.00	324	77.00	371	605.00
231	715.00	278	6,050.00	325	154.00	372	220.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
373	1,760.00	420	.715.00	467	17,600.00	514	.220.00
374	1,430.00	421	7,150.00	468	1,760.00	515	396.00
375	2,420.00	422	.660.00	469	1,210.00	516	1,265.00
376	3,300.00	423	308,000.00	470	14,300.00	517	.715.00
377	.88.00	424	6,600.00	471	.550.00	518	.715.00
378	308.00	425	5,225.00	472	.302.50	519	1,650.00
379	.660.00	426	104,500.00	473	16,500.00	520	1,650.00
380	1,100.00	427	10,450.00	474	.522.50	521	1,320.00
381	.176.00	428	55,000.00	475	1,320.00	522	1,100.00
382	.605.00	429	2,090.00	476	20,900.00	523	.495.00
383	.275.00	430	14,300.00	477	.330.00	524	2,860.00
384	.522.50	431	1,320.00	478	.23,100.00	525	1,430.00
385	.357.50	432	2,200.00	479	.522.50	526	4,950.00
386	.330.00	433	1,650.00	480	.3,850.00	527	1,045.00
387	.440.00	434	3,575.00	481	.38,500.00	528	.385.00
388	.990.00	435	.495.00	482	.330.00	529	.154.00
389	.412.50	436	2,420.00	483	.935.00	530	1,430.00
390	1,760.00	437	.495.00	484	.33,000.00	531	.330.00
391	2,200.00	438	2,200.00	485	.1,430.00	532	20,900.00
392	1,210.00	439	.550.00	486	.3,080.00	533	.66,000.00
393	2,860.00	440	.495.00	487	.24,200.00	534	.35,750.00
394	.302.50	441	.825.00	488	.522.50	535	20,900.00
395	.3,575.00	442	.605.00	489	.550.00	536	.9,350.00
396	.220.00	443	.23,100.00	490	.24,200.00	537	.5,500.00
397	.1,650.00	444	.4,950.00	491	.440.00	538	.2,640.00
398	.660.00	445	.1,210.00	492	.7,150.00	539	.30,800.00
399	.440.00	446	.1,100.00	493	.5,500.00	540	.16,500.00
400	.247.50	447	.6,050.00	494	.16,500.00	541	.19,800.00
401	.198.00	448	2,200.00	495	.77,000.00	542	.82,500.00
402	.302.50	449	1,760.00	496	.385.00	543	.49,500.00
403	.18,700.00	450	.1,540.00	497	.275.00	544	.22,000.00
404	1,760.00	451	.605.00	498	.38,500.00	545	.18,700.00
405	.14,300.00	452	.60,500.00	499	.357.50	546	.4,400.00
406	.11,000.00	453	.1,045.00	500	.8,250.00	547	.1,650.00
407	.8,800.00	454	.8,800.00	501	.13,200.00	548	.605.00
408	.3,850.00	455	.35,750.00	502	.412.50	549	.632.50
409	.2,420.00	456	.4,400.00	503	.715.00	550	.3,300.00
410	1,760.00	457	12,100.00	504	.7,150.00	551	.2,420.00
411	.660.00	458	.7,150.00	505	.77.00	552	.385.00
412	3,300.00	459	.385.00	506	.1,045.00	553	.1,815.00
413	.7,150.00	460	.24,200.00	507	.6,050.00	554	.12,100.00
414	1,430.00	461	.302.50	508	.231.00	555	.63,250.00
415	.4,950.00	462	.302.50	509	.1,045.00	556	.6,600.00
416	1,320.00	463	.467.50	510	.302.50	557	.1,760.00
417	.1,540.00	464	.220.00	511	.880.00	558	.16,500.00
418	.3,575.00	465	.15,400.00	512	.4,125.00	559	.396.00
419	.1,045.00	466	.550.00	513	.880.00	560	2,860.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
561	15,400.00	608	12,100.00	655	121.00	702	5,225.00
562	3,080.00	609	302.50	656	550.00	703	5,225.00
563	24,200.00	610	935.00	657	165.00	704	308.00
564	18,700.00	611	30,800.00	658	1,210.00	705	220.00
565	3,850.00	612	605.00	659	1,430.00	706	385.00
566	10,450.00	613	880.00	660	935.00	707	247.50
567	1,980.00	614	825.00	661	286.00	708	5,225.00
568	14,300.00	615	66,000.00	662	880.00	709	1,540.00
569	18,700.00	616	3,575.00	663	357.50	710	2,420.00
570	2,640.00	617	495.00	664	522.50	711	495.00
571	14,300.00	618	17,600.00	665	605.00	712	357.50
572	28,600.00	619	605.00	666	605.00	713	330.00
573	1,210.00	620	2,860.00	667	1,320.00	714	176.00
574	.825.00	621	17,600.00	668	2,640.00	715	1,320.00
575	.605.00	622	247.50	669	38,500.00	716	2,200.00
576	.6,050.00	623	4,675.00	670	1,540.00	717	.660.00
577	.2,420.00	624	302.50	671	1,210.00	718	2,310.00
578	.14,300.00	625	1,650.00	672	880.00	719	.412.50
579	.605.00	626	935.00	673	374.00	720	.2,860.00
580	.13,750.00	627	385.00	674	220.00	721	.660.00
581	.880.00	628	2,420.00	675	302.50	722	.1,760.00
582	.3,740.00	629	4,400.00	676	3,300.00	723	.440.00
583	.990.00	630	1,540.00	677	.715.00	724	.2,420.00
584	.330.00	631	2,090.00	678	1,100.00	725	.467.50
585	.4,950.00	632	5,225.00	679	.825.00	726	.1,760.00
586	.24,200.00	633	1,980.00	680	1,870.00	727	.2,200.00
587	.605.00	634	1,210.00	681	1,760.00	728	.1,430.00
588	.7,150.00	635	1,815.00	682	935.00	729	.770.00
589	.660.00	636	1,210.00	683	.154.00	730	.412.50
590	.220.00	637	412.50	684	.825.00	731	.13,200.00
591	.1,430.00	638	5,500.00	685	.231.00	732	.825.00
592	.176.00	639	1,100.00	686	1,320.00	733	.385.00
593	.247.50	640	.715.00	687	.385.00	734	.132.00
594	.1,100.00	641	.770.00	688	.176.00	735	.385.00
595	.26,400.00	642	.715.00	689	.6,050.00	736	.715.00
596	.1,045.00	643	.605.00	690	.192.50	737	.990.00
597	.522.50	644	.3,080.00	691	.1,760.00	738	.12,100.00
598	.220.00	645	.385.00	692	.8,250.00	739	.2,420.00
599	.3,300.00	646	.247.50	693	.302.50	740	.4,675.00
600	.20,900.00	647	.1,760.00	694	.9,900.00	741	.13,200.00
601	.30,800.00	648	.1,100.00	695	.4,125.00	742	.825.00
602	.17,600.00	649	.330.00	696	.1,650.00	743	.6,050.00
603	.121.00	650	.275.00	697	.4,950.00	744	.660.00
604	.1,870.00	651	.825.00	698	.935.00	745	.825.00
605	.26,400.00	652	.2,860.00	699	.8,250.00	746	.3,850.00
606	.4,125.00	653	.4,125.00	700	.467.50	747	.1,320.00
607	.935.00	654	.2,200.00	701	.275.00	748	.577.50

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
749	1,650.00	796	9,900.00	843	6,600.00	890	.467.50
750	.825.00	797	20,900.00	844	.660.00	891	3,080.00
751	.660.00	798	12,100.00	845	.154.00	892	18,700.00
752	2,750.00	799	16,500.00	846	.935.00	893	.247.50
753	2,860.00	800	13,200.00	847	1,980.00	894	1,705.00
754	.550.00	801	17,600.00	848	1,320.00	895	14,300.00
755	.715.00	802	.6,600.00	849	1,540.00	896	.550.00
756	.880.00	803	14,850.00	850	1,210.00	897	4,400.00
757	.6,600.00	804	17,600.00	851	4,400.00	898	7,700.00
758	2,420.00	805	16,500.00	852	.176.00	899	.412.50
759	.825.00	806	.49,500.00	853	.3,300.00	900	.220.00
760	.770.00	807	.3,300.00	854	.495.00	901	15,400.00
761	.198.00	808	.4,675.00	855	.3,080.00	902	16,500.00
762	.247.50	809	.30,800.00	856	.154.00	903	.4,125.00
763	.275.00	810	.110,000.00	857	1,210.00	904	.7,150.00
764	.935.00	811	.1,870.00	858	.4,235.00	905	4,400.00
765	.1,870.00	812	.3,080.00	859	.2,200.00	906	.176.00
766	.4,125.00	813	.1,540.00	860	.132.00	907	.1,045.00
767	.4,950.00	814	.35,750.00	861	.330.00	908	18,700.00
768	.2,090.00	815	.660.00	862	.13,200.00	909	14,300.00
769	.1,650.00	816	.412.50	863	.33,000.00	910	.247.50
770	.3,080.00	817	.1,650.00	864	.176,000.00	911	.25,300.00
771	.6,325.00	818	.247.50	865	.55,000.00	912	.9,900.00
772	.46,750.00	819	.313.50	866	.121,000.00	913	.24,200.00
773	.2,640.00	820	.2,860.00	867	.16,500.00	914	.412.50
774	.3,575.00	821	.825.00	868	.247.50	915	.2,640.00
775	.3,080.00	822	.605.00	869	.1,100.00	916	.1,980.00
776	.2,090.00	823	.24,200.00	870	.2,420.00	917	.28,600.00
777	.2,640.00	824	.605.00	871	.9,350.00	918	.2,200.00
778	.1,100.00	825	.10,725.00	872	.35,750.00	919	.10,450.00
779	.6,600.00	826	.1,760.00	873	.110.00	920	.5,500.00
780	.2,860.00	827	.4,675.00	874	.132.00	921	.990.00
781	.2,860.00	828	.24,200.00	875	.605.00	922	.22,000.00
782	.15,400.00	829	.3,850.00	876	.14,300.00	923	.7,700.00
783	.1,870.00	830	.2,860.00	877	.110.00	924	.1,430.00
784	.1,980.00	831	.3,575.00	878	.4,950.00	925	.6,050.00
785	.3,300.00	832	.412,500.00	879	.3,575.00	926	.3,575.00
786	.3,300.00	833	.440,000.00	880	.14,025.00	927	.34,100.00
787	.1,650.00	834	.426,250.00	881	.13,200.00	928	.6,600.00
788	.2,420.00	835	.308,000.00	882	.110.00	929	.6,600.00
789	.2,090.00	836	.15,400.00	883	.990.00	930	.5,775.00
790	.3,575.00	837	.28,600.00	884	.2,420.00	931	.17,600.00
791	.3,300.00	838	.2,200.00	885	.385.00	932	.3,410.00
792	.4,400.00	839	.770.00	886	.5,500.00	933	.467,500.00
793	.4,950.00	840	.550.00	887	.2,200.00	934	.35,750.00
794	.6,600.00	841	.880.00	888	.3,300.00	935	.9,625.00
795	.5,170.00	842	.660.00	889	.275.00	936	.770.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
937	308,000.00	984	24,200.00	1031	3,575.00	1078	990.00
938	198,000.00	985	93,500.00	1032	.99.00	1079	6,875.00
939	715.00	986	154.00	1033	27,500.00	1080	132.00
940	60,500.00	987	4,510.00	1034	110.00	1081	55,000.00
941	8,250.00	988	20,900.00	1035	24,200.00	1082	132.00
942	4,400.00	989	2,310.00	1036	495.00	1083	3,575.00
943	12,100.00	990	23,100.00	1037	14,300.00	1084	33,000.00
944	24,200.00	991	4,675.00	1038	.880.00	1085	132.00
945	18,700.00	992	2,750.00	1039	2,860.00	1086	6,600.00
946	10,450.00	993	9,900.00	1040	176.00	1087	132.00
947	41,250.00	994	6,050.00	1041	132.00	1088	16,500.00
948	5,500.00	995	46,750.00	1042	110.00	1089	715.00
949	77,000.00	996	412.50	1043	121.00	1090	9,075.00
950	5,500.00	997	467.50	1044	132.00	1091	132.00
951	41,250.00	998	990.00	1045	137.50	1092	935.00
952	7,700.00	999	6,600.00	1046	132.00	1093	467.50
953	42,350.00	1000	1,540.00	1047	660.00	1094	165.00
954	16,500.00	1001	1,100.00	1048	132.00	1095	165.00
955	93,500.00	1002	1,045.00	1049	24,200.00	1096	203.50
956	3,850.00	1003	1,540.00	1050	19,800.00	1097	198.00
957	17,600.00	1004	1,980.00	1051	27,500.00	1098	154.00
958	33,000.00	1005	1,210.00	1052	18,700.00	1099	880.00
959	1,540.00	1006	4,400.00	1053	20,900.00	1100	154.00
960	10,450.00	1007	1,430.00	1054	154.00	1101	2,200.00
961	22,000.00	1008	1,210.00	1055	2,310.00	1102	73,150.00
962	7,150.00	1009	1,100.00	1056	.880.00	1103	46,750.00
963	13,200.00	1010	16,500.00	1057	41,250.00	1104	165.00
964	12,100.00	1011	7,700.00	1058	132.00	1105	1,045.00
965	770.00	1012	1,430.00	1059	440.00	1106	66,000.00
966	1,595.00	1013	4,125.00	1060	3,575.00	1107	385.00
967	1,430.00	1014	.825.00	1061	14,300.00	1108	3,300.00
968	121.00	1015	1,320.00	1062	110.00	1109	1,210.00
969	9,350.00	1016	5,500.00	1063	.770.00	1110	148.50
970	52,250.00	1017	.715.00	1064	15,400.00	1111	165.00
971	275.00	1018	.220.00	1065	412.50	1112	165.00
972	110.00	1019	2,420.00	1066	.71,500.00	1113	880.00
973	5,225.00	1020	1,210.00	1067	22,000.00	1114	990.00
974	3,575.00	1021	13,750.00	1068	.33,000.00	1115	330.00
975	110.00	1022	60,500.00	1069	.385.00	1116	154.00
976	121.00	1023	.176.00	1070	.660.00	1117	4,125.00
977	3,850.00	1024	7,700.00	1071	.9,900.00	1118	1,980.00
978	6,050.00	1025	3,960.00	1072	132.00	1119	7,700.00
979	2,860.00	1026	3,575.00	1073	.143.00	1120	2,750.00
980	1,430.00	1027	26,400.00	1074	.88,000.00	1121	3,080.00
981	110,000.00	1028	19,800.00	1075	.8,525.00	1122	8,800.00
982	44,000.00	1029	2,860.00	1076	.8,800.00	1123	5,500.00
983	15,400.00	1030	.275.00	1077	.121.00	1124	4,125.00

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1125	7,150.00	1160	52,800.00	1195	.660.00	1230	.605.00
1126	.605.00	1161	.30,800.00	1196	.2,200.00	1231	.8,800.00
1127	.10,450.00	1162	.60,500.00	1197	.770.00	1232	.880.00
1128	.28,600.00	1163	.396.00	1198	.396.00	1233	.5,940.00
1129	.451.00	1164	.60,500.00	1199	.990.00	1234	.3,080.00
1130	.429.00	1165	.396.00	1200	.418.00	1235	.1,100.00
1131	.2,860.00	1166	.440.00	1201	.412.50	1236	.11,000.00
1132	.9,350.00	1167	.77,000.00	1202	.418.00	1237	.2,860.00
1133	.11,825.00	1168	.423.50	1203	.467.50	1238	.4,400.00
1134	.35,750.00	1169	.121,000.00	1204	.1,650.00	1239	.6,600.00
1135	.1,870.00	1170	.407.00	1205	.74,250.00	1240	.8,250.00
1136	.440.00	1171	.60,500.00	1206	.396.00	1241	.4,675.00
1137	.14,300.00	1172	.77,000.00	1207	.396.00	1242	.26,400.00
1138	.6,325.00	1173	.396.00	1208	.1,760.00	1243	.8,250.00
1139	.10,175.00	1174	.18,700.00	1209	.390.50	1244	.2,090.00
1140	.3,300.00	1175	.407.00	1210	.467.50	1245	.1,155.00
1141	.30,800.00	1176	.49,500.00	1211	.396.00	1246	.4,125.00
1142	.5,500.00	1177	.33,000.00	1212	.396.00	1247	.5,500.00
1143	.495.00	1178	.35,750.00	1213	.467.50	1248	.3,080.00
1144	.1,320.00	1179	.24,200.00	1214	.495.00	1249	.14,300.00
1145	.14,300.00	1180	.30,800.00	1215	.440.00	1250	.15,400.00
1146	.9,350.00	1181	.418.00	1216	.30,800.00	1251	.28,600.00
1147	.1,045.00	1182	.18,700.00	1217	.418.00	1252	.8,250.00
1148	.522.50	1183	.30,800.00	1218	.770.00	1253	.3,850.00
1149	.17,600.00	1184	.407.00	1219	.418.00	1254	.4,125.00
1150	.418.00	1185	.467.50	1220	.880.00	1255	.20,900.00
1151	.396.00	1186	.60,500.00	1221	.990.00	1256	.24,200.00
1152	.467.50	1187	.990.00	1222	.1,870.00	1257	.20,900.00
1153	.55,000.00	1188	.8,800.00	1223	.3,300.00	1258	.17,600.00
1154	.385.00	1189	.440.00	1224	.467.50	1259	.4,125.00
1155	.9,350.00	1190	.550.00	1225	.12,100.00	1260	.71,500.00
1156	.522.50	1191	.4,950.00	1226	.10,725.00	1261	.7,700.00
1157	.7,700.00	1192	.550.00	1227	.715.00	1262	.10,450.00
1158	.63,250.00	1193	.2,860.00	1228	.4,400.00	1263	.4,125.00
1159	.418.00	1194	.4,400.00	1229	.3,575.00	1264	.1,650.00

The price listed for each lot includes the 10% buyer's fee, i.e. it is equal to the "hammer price" plus an additional 10% premium.*

*This amount represents the actual amount paid by the successful bidder.

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One



October 21-23, 1997

Catalogued and Sold By
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One



1833 Half Eagle, Gem Proof
Lot 933

October 21-23, 1997

Catalogued and Sold By
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.
P.O. Box 373
Stuart, Florida 34995-0373
Phone: 561-781-4200 • Fax: 561-223-1964

Cover Photographs

Coins Shown on Front Cover:

- 1936 Dot Cent, Canada, Specimen, Lot 1
- 1821 Large Cent, Proof, Lot 202
- 1792 Half Disme, Uncirculated, Lot 423
- 1797 Dime, Uncirculated, Lot 533
- 1825 Dime, Proof, Lot 555
- 1877 Pattern \$50 in Copper, J-1547, Lot 810
- 1839 Pattern Half Dollar, J-101, Proof, Lot 772
- 1843 Silver Dollar (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 832
- 1854 Gold Dollar, Type II, Proof, Lot 864
- 1833 Half Eagle, Proof, Lot 933
- 1835 Half Eagle, Proof, Lot 937
- 1848 Half Eagle, Proof, Lot 985
- 1910-D Half Eagle, Uncirculated, Lot 1102
- 1891 Double Eagle, Proof, Lot 1162

JJP always displayed his coins on a red velvet background with a white satin banner which read, "Selected Numismatic Rarities". The cover of this catalogue is a re-creation of the "look" of one of JJP's displays.

Coins Shown on Back Cover:

- 1936 Dot Dime, Canada, Specimen, Lot 15
- 1934 Half Dollar, Canada, Specimen, Lot 25
- 1796 Myddelton Token in Copper, Proof, Lot 121
- 1831 Large Cent, Proof, Lot 216
- 1802 Half Dime, Extremely Fine, Lot 428
- 1853 Dime, With Arrows, Proof, Lot 615
- 1916 Pattern Half Dollar, J-1797"b", Proof, Lot 814
- 1883 Hawaii Eighth Dollar, Proof, Lot 828
- 1843 Eagle (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 832
- 1844 Quarter Eagle (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 833
- 1859 Double Eagle (From Proof Set), Proof, Lot 834
- 1855 Gold Dollar, Type II, Proof, Lot 866
- 1836 Half Eagle, Proof, Lot 938
- 1842 Half Eagle, Proof, Lot 955
- 1913 Double Eagle, Proof, Lot 1205
- C. Bechtler \$5, Fantasy Restrike, Proof, Lot 1250
- 1855 Kellogg \$50 in Copper, Proof, Lot 1260

Credits

Catalogue Written by: David W. Akers
Black and White Photography: Donald L. Slouffman
Color Photography: Thomas A. Mulvaney
Catalogue Production: Grady Hayes & Associates, Inc.

Sale Location

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor
110 South Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Phone: 410-962-0202

This sale is conducted in cooperation with James Reid Edwards Auction Service, Joppa, MD.

Order Of Sale

Session One: Tuesday Evening, October 21, 1997

6:00 P.M. Sharp. Lots 1-397

Session Two: Wednesday Evening, October 22, 1997

6:00 P.M. Sharp. Lots 398-831

Session Three: Thursday Evening, October 23, 1997

6:00 P.M. Sharp. Lots 832-1264

Place Of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, will take place in the West Ballroom of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, 110 South Eutaw St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Phone: 410-962-0202.

Viewing Of Lots

All lots from the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, will be on display in Salons A, B & C of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor according to the following schedule.

Saturday, October 18, 1997: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Sunday, October 19, 1997: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Monday, October 20, 1997: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Tuesday, October 21, 1997: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Wednesday, October 22, 1997: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. (Sessions Two and Three Only)

Thursday, October 23, 1997: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. (Session Three Only)

Lots will also be available for viewing in Rochester, New York, from September 22, 1997, through October 10, 1997, except weekends, by appointment only. Due to the anticipated interest in this sale, it is recommended that individuals intending to view all, or even a large portion of the sale, call for an appointment to see the lots in Rochester. Viewing space in Rochester is restricted, but we will accommodate as many individuals as possible. Early reservations are strongly recommended. No lots will be available for viewing in Florida.

Delivery Of Lots

Lots will be delivered to qualified, successful bidders according to the following schedule.

Session One: Wednesday morning, October 22, 1997

10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon only

Sessions One and Two: Thursday morning, October 23, 1997

10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon only

All Sessions: Friday morning, October 24, 1997

10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon only

Any lots picked up in Baltimore will be subject to all applicable state and local taxes. Lots not picked up in Baltimore will be mailed to successful bidders. No lots will be delivered until paid for in full.

Mail Bids

All mail bids should be sent as follows.

By Mail: David Akers Numismatics, Inc.

P.O. Box 373

Stuart, FL 34995-0373

By Fax: 561-223-1964

By Phone: 561-781-4200 (Must be confirmed in writing)

After Thursday, October 16, 1997, all mail bids must be sent to the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor c/o David W. Akers.

Acknowledgements

Many people have made significant contributions to this catalogue and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge each one of them for their efforts. So, my sincerest thanks: To **Don Slouffman** and **Tom Mulvaney** for their superb photography and their assistance in organizing and cataloguing the sale. To **Polly Pittman** for her assistance in organizing the collection and her proofreading of the manuscript. To **Tony Terranova** (Colonials, Early Copper), **Denis Loring** (Large Cents), **Stuart Levine** (Bust Half Dimes), **Brian Greer** (Bust Half Dimes), **Saul Teichman** (Patterns), **John McCloskey** (Classic Head Half Eagles), and **Sandy Campbell** (Canadian Coins) for attributing varieties and for information concerning rarity ratings, pedigrees etc. To **Deborah Unger** for being able to read my handwriting and decipher my dictation while typing the catalogue manuscript. To my wife, **Sharron Akers**, and daughter, **Heather Akers**, for helpful suggestions concerning the design of the catalogue and for keeping the light on at home. To **Grady Hayes** and **Mari Hayes** for their work in producing the finished version of the catalogue.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude is extended to **Mrs. Gehring C. Pittman** and the Pittman Family for entrusting me with the enviable and pleasurable task of cataloguing and selling one of the greatest numismatic collections of the Twentieth Century, the **John Jay Pittman Collection**.

David W. Akers
Stuart, Florida

T e r m s O f S a l e

1. This is a public auction sale conducted by licensed and bonded auctioneers. All bids are per lot. No lots will be broken. Lots will be sold in numerical sequence unless the auctioneer otherwise directs.
2. All lots shall be sold to the highest bidder as determined by the auctioneer. If any dispute arises during or after the sale of a lot (but during the session), the auctioneer shall have the right to re-open the lot and put it up for sale again. In all cases, the auctioneer's decision shall be final. For the bidder's protection, NO "UNLIMITED" OR "BUY" BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
3. A 10% buyer's fee will be added to the "hammer price" of each lot as determined by the auctioneer. This 10% buyer's fee will be added to the invoice of each successful bidder regardless of a bidder's affiliation with any group or organization. Sales tax, if applicable, and any other tax, will be added to the total amount of each invoice including the buyer's charge.
4. **ALL LOTS MUST BE PAID FOR IN FULL PRIOR TO DELIVERY WITHOUT EXCEPTION.** Payments must be made by check or bank wire only and must be in U.S. funds. All remittances must be drawn on U.S. banks and made payable to "David Akers Numismatics, Inc." No credit cards, cash, or cashier's checks will be accepted for purchases or deposits. Bids cannot be accepted from anyone under 18 years of age without a parent's or legal guardian's written consent guaranteeing prompt payment. Shipping, handling, postage, registration and insurance charges will be added for all lots delivered by mail.
5. New bidders who previously have not established credit with David Akers Numismatics, Inc. (AKERS) must furnish satisfactory credit references or deposit 25% of their total bids before such bids will be accepted. Deposits submitted will be applied to purchases and any unused portion of such deposits will be promptly refunded. Any individual who plans to bid in excess of \$10,000, regardless of past credit arrangements with AKERS, must submit a 25% deposit on any planned bidding amount or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the bidder's bank equal to the full amount of any anticipated bidding. Such deposits or letters of credit must be received by AKERS no later than Thursday, October 16, 1997. In order to establish bidding limits, AKERS must have an up-to-date pre-registration agreement on file. No bidding limit can be established for any bidder after Thursday, October 16, 1997. Bidding limits shall be determined for each bidder at the sole discretion of AKERS. Participation in this auction may be denied any individual who, in AKERS sole opinion, has had past or current credit problems with AKERS or any other numismatic firm.
6. All lots delivered in Maryland or Florida are subject to applicable state and local sales taxes, which are the sole responsibility of the buyer. Any buyer claiming exemption from such taxes must submit to AKERS a valid resale or exemption certificate or other proof of exemption, or be subject to any applicable tax. In the event any taxes are not collected at the time of sale, and a legal taxing authority subsequently determines that such taxes are due, the buyer agrees to pay such taxes on demand, plus any interest, penalties and legal fees, including attorney's fees, that may thereafter be assessed. If the legal entity purchasing the lots on which taxes are subsequently determined to be payable, ceases to exist for any reason whatsoever, the individual bidding on behalf of that entity agrees to be personally liable for such taxes, interest, penalties and legal fees.
7. All items offered for sale in this catalogue are guaranteed to be authentic and from the John Jay Pittman Collection. No other consignments from any other source have been included in this sale. Authenticity does not include grading, attributions, die varieties, pedigrees, method of manufacture or any other portion of the written description of the coin or coins in any lot. Such information has been provided by AKERS solely as a convenience to bidders, and all bidders agree to make their own determination as to the correctness and/or value of this information. Any claim that a lot or portion of a multiple-item lot is not authentic must be made in writing to AKERS by registered mail within 21 days of the final sale date. The item in question must be returned to AKERS by registered, insured mail in its original sealed holder by November 22, 1997, without exception. If the lot contains more than one item, even if the authenticity is not questioned on all items in the lot, the entire lot must be returned. No returns will be accepted from any mail or floor bidder for any reason other than for reasons of authenticity as defined in this paragraph.
8. Title does not pass until lots are paid for in full. It is the responsibility and obligation of the Buyer to maintain insurance on any coins in his/her possession. Risk of loss is on the Buyer. By bidding in the sale, the bidder agrees to permit AKERS to file any financial statement permitted under the Uniform Commercial Code without debtor's signature, and to offset any accounts due, whether now or in the future, against funds or collateral in AKERS possession.
9. The auctioneer and/or AKERS reserve the right to open a lot at a reasonable price, to set bidding increments as they shall determine, and to refuse any bid which in the judgement of the auctioneer or AKERS is ridiculously low or believed not to be made in good faith. AKERS may open bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the seller. AKERS may further bid on behalf of the seller, up to the amount of the reserve, by placing successive or consecutive bids for a lot, or by placing bids in response to other bidders. The auctioneer and/or AKERS may also bid for his, or its, own account and may have access to information concerning the lots, and items contained in them, that are not otherwise available to the public.
10. All mail bids must be sent to AKERS via mail or fax. Phone bids will be accepted only if subsequently confirmed by mail or fax. No information concerning previously received mail bids will be given by AKERS to any bidder or consignor. AKERS will enter and execute bids for mail bidders as a service only, and no commission will be charged for this service. Every effort will be made by AKERS to properly enter and execute all bids received by mail or fax, but AKERS assumes no liability for any errors in this regard, including failure to enter bids. By accepting a bidder's mail bids, AKERS assumes no additional obligation to mail bidder other than making its best effort to enter and execute the bids. When identical mail bids are received by AKERS for any lot, preference is given to the first bid received as determined by AKERS. A mail bid will take precedence over an identical floor bid, and a floor bidder must bid higher than the highest mail bid to be awarded any lot.
11. Auction sales are not approval sales. Any lot may be examined before bidding. No lots may be returned for any reason by mail or floor buyers (including those acting as agents for others). Exceptions will be made only for reason of authenticity under the provisions of Paragraph 7 of these Terms of Sale. AKERS reserves the right to postpone or cancel the sale without notice, should it in its sole discretion determine that such action is warranted. Any lot may be withdrawn without notice prior to the sale. Neither AKERS nor the consignor will have any obligation to the intended bidders as a result of any postponement, cancellation, or withdrawal.
12. AKERS cannot be responsible for errors in bidding. Please make certain that you bid on the correct lot and that your bid (plus the 10% buyer's fee) is the maximum amount that you are willing and able to pay. All bids not in even dollar amounts will be rounded down to the nearest dollar. All bid sheets, whether by mail or fax, must be signed to be accepted.
13. All photographs in this catalogue are of the actual coins being sold, but may not be actual size. In fact, most photographs have been enlarged.
14. AKERS, its employees, and the auctioneer, are "insiders" and may have access to confidential information not otherwise available to the public with respect to value, provenance, availability, and other factors. Bidders should make themselves knowledgeable about the numismatic items on which they are bidders and avail themselves of the services of outside consultants, pricing guides, and other numismatic books and periodicals prior to bidding on any lot in this sale.
15. In order to be eligible to place a floor bid in this sale, you must have a bidder's number. This is obtained by filling out a registration card with all pertinent information requested either by pre-registering with AKERS, or registering prior to any session at the sale itself. All persons seeking to bid, whether in person, by an agent or employee, or by mail,

Terms Of Sale

must also have a catalogue. By submitting a bid, whether in person, by mail, or through an employee or agent, the bidder acknowledges receipt of the catalogue, and agrees to adhere to these Terms of Sale. The auctioneer may decline to recognize any bidder who does not have a catalogue and has not registered and been given a bidder number. The auctioneer and/or AKERS, in their sole discretion, may also refuse to accept the mail or floor bid of any bidder who has not satisfied the terms of Paragraph 5 of these Terms of Sale concerning credit and bidding limits.

16. Grading is a subjective description that represents the opinion of the cataloguer as to the state of preservation of a particular coin or lot. "Proof" is used to describe a method of manufacture and is not a grade or condition. All such terms, including adjectival and numerical descriptions of coins and other numismatic items, are the opinion of AKERS and are not an attribution. No warranty, whether expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability, is made with respect to such adjectival or numerical descriptions, which can and do vary among experts; nor is any warranty or representation made that any other expert, grading service or other entity will grade a given piece the same as AKERS does; nor is any warranty or representation made that a coin or other numismatic item has not been cleaned or repaired, or that the toning of any item is natural, or that there is the absence of any other defect which would render it unsuitable for encapsulation by any grading service or the acceptance by a third party. By bidding on any lot in this sale, the bidder warrants that he/she has determined a grade for the lot, and is bidding an amount that he/she considers appropriate for the lot. Bidder also warrants that he/she has independently determined the appropriate attribution and method of manufacture, if such information is important to him/her, and has considered all other factors he/she deems necessary to determine and place his/her bids.

17. AKERS reserves the right to impose a late charge, based solely upon Buyer's failure to remit full and timely payment, and which late charge is not related to any necessary storage of the material purchased. Said late charge is calculated at a rate of 1 1/2% per month (18% per annum), based on the purchase price if payment has not been made in accordance with these Terms of Sale. Purchases not collected and paid for within thirty (30) days of the date of sale may, at the sole option of AKERS, be resold for Buyer's account by AKERS, with Buyer liable for any deficit after AKERS receives a commission for the same in accordance with its agreement, and thereafter deducts all expenses associated with the sale. If the account is referred to any attorney or collection agency for collection, the buyer agrees to pay a 3% charge on the unpaid balance, plus all costs, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees, sheriff's charges, court costs, and collection agency fees, with interest accruing on the balance, until fully paid, at the previously specified rate. (The 3% charge will be used to cover certain administrative charges which AKERS may incur in the collection of this debt.)

18. All oral and written statements made by AKERS, its agents and employees, and those showing its lots, are statements of opinion only and are not warranties or representations of any kind. No employee or agent of AKERS has the authority to vary or alter these Terms of Sale in any manner whatsoever.

19. By bidding in this sale, even if for a corporation, or as an agent for another individual or firm, a bidder personally guarantees prompt payment, and adherence to all Terms of Sale. Each bidder acknowledges that he/she is bidding in this sale primarily for commercial purposes, and for eventual resale.

20. In the event of an error in attribution, a significant cataloguing error, or typographical error, which, in the sole opinion of AKERS, materially affects the value of a lot, AKERS reserves the right to withdraw the lot from the sale or correct the error orally at the time of sale, at AKERS sole discretion.

21. By purchasing in this sale, Buyer agrees that he/she shall have no recourse against the consignor for any reason whatsoever. Buyer further agrees that if any numismatic item purchased at this sale is damaged by its removal from the holder in which it is placed for lot viewing, or damaged by being left in said holder, or damaged by encapsulation at any third party grading service, or damaged in any other way whatsoever after Buyer has taken possession of said numismatic item, such damage is the sole risk of the Buyer.

22. Unless otherwise stated, AKERS acts only as agent for the Consignor and makes no independent warranty of title. AKERS offers the following LIMITED WARRANTY to Buyers with respect to all numismatic items offered for sale. AKERS warrants to all Buyers that the Consignor has warranted good title to property offered for sale. Any such warranty is predicated on the Owner or prior owner making the same warranty to AKERS, upon which AKERS relies. In the event that it is finally determined that the Buyer has not acquired transferable title, AKERS shall reimburse the Buyer (if full payment has already been made) in accordance with these Terms of Sale, and Buyer agrees that this is full compensation for any loss whatsoever, whether actual or otherwise. Tender of the check by AKERS to Buyer at the address specified on the bid sheet or registration form shall end the obligation of AKERS to the Buyer, even if the check is not endorsed or cashed. AKERS and the Consignor make no representations or warranty that the Purchaser acquires any reproduction rights or copyright in property purchased at the sale.

23. AKERS further expressly disclaims all warranties relating to the grade, condition, identification of the periods or date of coining or manufacture or methods of manufacture of property which is inaccurate, or may be proved inaccurate, by means of scientific process or research which is not generally accepted for use until after the sale.

24. All rights granted to the Buyer under the Terms of Sale are personal to the Buyer. Buyer may not assign or transfer any of these rights to any other person or entity, whether by operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt so to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely VOID and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms of Sale. Buyer shall mean the original purchaser of the property from AKERS and not any subsequent owner or other person who may have or acquire an interest therein. If Buyer is an agent, the agency must be disclosed at the time of sale, otherwise the benefits deriving from the Terms of Sale shall be limited to the agent and not transferable to the undisclosed principal.

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26. By bidding in this sale, bidder agrees that the transaction shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. Any dispute, claim or controversy (except for non-payment) shall be settled exclusively by binding arbitration under the rules then in effect of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc. (PNG), as if both parties to the dispute were members, at Stuart, Florida, or another suitable location at the sole option of AKERS. In the event of non-payment, at its option, AKERS may refer the matter to PNG arbitration, or elect to proceed judicially, in which case, the Buyer consents to jurisdiction in the courts of Martin County, Florida. In all cases, the maximum liability of AKERS for any item sold shall be limited to the official Price Realized, which shall be defined to be the hammer price as determined by the auctioneer plus the 10% Buyer's Fee.

27. Bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all the foregoing terms and conditions.

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John Jay Pittman
1913 - 1996

Contrary to what many people think, JJP did not come from money. He was the oldest of 7 children and was 10 years old before he had a new pair of shoes. His mother, like other women teachers of her era, was barred from teaching after marriage. His father worked for the railroad and was temporarily sent to Chase City, Virginia, a small town just over the North Carolina border. On February 18, 1913, for perhaps the only time in his life, John Jay Pittman arrived somewhere early! Before he was 6 months old, his parents returned to Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where they lived for the rest of their lives. JJP's father became a barber to keep the family together. He was a dreamer; a pleasant, gregarious man trapped by the reality of a large family and a dead-end job. Poor judgment caused the loss of the family's home, and all of the children who could, had to work.

In the summers JJP was sent to help out on his grandfather's farm. The summer he was 7, he went down the road to a cotton farmer and asked if he could work for the day. He spent the whole day doing hot, backbreaking work; his hands bled from pulling at the raw cotton boles. At day's end, the man gave him a dime. JJP asked if that was all, and was told it was the pay. After that, he decided he would find out in advance what something cost or what was being paid, before committing himself.

A few years later he got a job hustling papers in front of the Post Office. He collected the stamps from the envelopes that people threw into the trash can. When his grandmother gave him some old coins he was bewitched by the lure of the people, history, and far off places which the coins represented. He was hooked!

He was a wanderer in mind and spirit and became one in reality. When he was 13 he caught a boxcar and rode the rails, vagabonding and staying in hobo jungles. He went as far as Wyoming, then realized he'd better get back or he would miss school in September. The next summer he hitchhiked to New York City and worked on the docks, in the garment district, and finally became a runner on Wall Street. Both summers he left without telling his parents.

When money is scarce, material possessions are not plentiful. He soon realized that although other things are ephemeral, knowledge is the only thing no one can take away. Reading and studying became a passion. At 17 he graduated from high school, and with scholarships and a loan from an uncle who was a doctor, he went to the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill. He wanted to be a doctor, but the terms of the loan from his uncle were that he had to help educate his next younger brother and sister, two and three years behind him. Medical school would take too long, so he settled for chemical engineering.

He worked through college, mostly waiting on tables. He was friendly to the cooks and treated them with politeness and respect. He became their favorite, and they often gave him the better pieces of meat for his table, therefore earning him better tips from wealthy students. On breaks and in the summers, he worked as a soda jerk and in the tobacco auctioneering barns. From the latter he acquired his knowledge of auction calling which entertained people and benefited many coin clubs.

After graduation he spent the summer in graduate school at Princeton and then landed a job in Akron, Ohio. With news of his acceptance at Kodak, he went to Rochester, New York, in January 1936. His youthful goals, influenced by poverty and the Depression, had been to earn \$10,000 in a year and to have people call him "Sir". Both were within reach, but they had been replaced by new horizons and bolder dreams.

Dad always used to say that there were 3 sides to every coin - the obverse, the reverse, and the edge. In a way, he was a lot like a coin. His personality was as distinct and different as two sides of a coin. On the one side he was flamboyant and extroverted, a frequent speaker and presenter, a man with an infectious laugh and a twinkle in his eye. He always had time for a collector, no matter how old, who had a passion for coins. But if someone wanted to know what it was worth, the treasure Dad was showing immediately went into his coat pocket. He enjoyed a crowd; he "worked it" and was always interested in people. Some people thought he was a rogue and a scoundrel, especially if he had made a shrewd deal on a coin. He could also be secretive and cagey, and would rarely reveal who, what, where, or when. He was almost infamous for using the term "allegedly".

He possessed something else which was very rare: integrity. He was honest; sometimes painfully so. He was willing to bear repercussions and defended his position even if some people were offended. He was admired, respected, and trusted by many collectors and dealers; others resented his uncompromising "bottom line". He held high ideals for himself and expected the same from others; yet he often took people as they were and accepted them. He was intensely loyal, but there were limits. And he never forgot.

He also had a passion for his hobby. His dedication to the American Numismatic Association is legendary. He raised more money in gifts, and “convinced” more people to become life members than anyone in the history of the Association. At one convention, he was so involved selling the ANA that he followed a man into the men’s room. When they came out, the ANA had a new Life Member. The number of hours spent working for the hobby, for the collectors and the dealers, over more than 50 years of his membership, is immeasurable.

JJP was committed to history. He single-handedly convinced the United States Congress to issue the Bicentennial quarter. At first, the government was only going to release a commemorative half dollar. JJP knew it would be mostly a “collector’s” coin, and he believed there should be a coin for the PEOPLE of the country. In speaking before Congress, he was told that if he felt that way, he would have to convince those in charge of the legislation. He pursued Senators and Representatives in person and by letter. The result is the “Drummer Boy” quarter, perhaps the most highly recognized circulating commemorative coin. It gave the nation’s citizens a piece of history to hold in their hands. His efforts are recorded in the Congressional Record.

The other side of the coin was JJP’s personal life. He was modest and unpresuming. Mom still lives in the house which Dad and Mom built in 1940. When the house was being constructed, JJP would take his lunch break every day to go and make sure that everything they wanted in the house was being done just right. It was not luxury, but it had to be quality.

He drove practical cars. Cars were a means to a destination. He had a passion for education and travel, and since travel was educational, it was a bonus. He and Mom traveled from the time they were married. On weekends, they used half the money they had to put gas in the car, drove till it was just about empty, and then used the other half to come home. When kids came (Jay, Polly, and Betsy), we went along too. Of course, it helped that there were all those historical, geographical, and numismatic places to visit. Toronto, 175 miles from Rochester, was a late evening’s visit. Gettysburg is on the way to North Carolina. Summer ANA’s and CNA’s: Boston, Washington, Denver, Los Angeles; Vancouver, Calgary, Hamilton, Sherbrooke.

Dad often used the phrase, “Charge it to education.” His kids would go to college. His son went around the world with the Boy Scouts at age 16; the next summer, his daughters and wife hiked Europe in a

rented Volkswagen Beetle, collecting mint issues from 13 foreign countries as they went. On a trip to South Africa with Mom, someone recognized JJP’s voice in the darkness and exclaimed, “John Pittman, I presume!” His suits weren’t expensive, and hotels were merely places to sleep. If they didn’t spend much on nights in hotels, more days could be spent in travel. Dad and Mom spent money on what was important to them. Dinner with friends was money well spent; expensive clothes, cars, hotels, and 1st class airfare wasted money that could be better spent on things that mattered.

Our dinner table conversation ranged from the ridiculous to the erudite; from Li’l Abner or Snuffy Smith, to the latest in current events. We discussed politics and the “War of Northern Aggression” (Civil War); sports (especially baseball), and philosophy. JJP read every issue of National Geographic from cover to cover and poured over the maps. Books about countries all over the world, some in foreign languages, were part of his reference library. He read coin books and biographies, natural and political history, modern and historical politics. There were books on political and social science; on diamonds, metallurgy, biology, chemistry, and physics.

But most of all JJP loved history. His family’s heritage (his ancestors had pioneered Virginia and North Carolina before the Pilgrims landed), provided another historical connection. His love of history spawned his fascination and passion for numismatics. The coins made history come alive. He liked the historical and political connections which coins had with people. In 1947 he was appointed to the United States Assay Commission. He took his commitment seriously and asked to stay and review many of the Mint records.

Dad’s wire-rimmed glasses were one of his hallmarks. A young optometrist once commented that Dad was really “with it” for an older gentleman because of his glasses. Dad replied that the rest of the people went in and out of style; he was always just himself. Despite his poor eyesight, he read everything, from the classics to the comics. Augmenting his love of reading was a phenomenal visual memory. If you showed him a coin, he would pull out his loupe and carefully examine it. He committed it to memory forever. If shown the same coin years later, he would say something like, “Oh yes, I saw that coin in Denver in 1963; I remember the carbon spot under the eagle’s throat.”

He also had a facility for languages and relished real cultural diversity. He was very comfortable with Spanish and German, and managed neatly little bits of

most of the modern languages. His knowledge of Latin was constantly refreshed by studying coins. He was at ease talking with politicians and foreign mint officials; yet he enjoyed chatting with everyone who crossed his path, and delighted in participating in "Show and Tell" with his grandchildren's school classes. He was well-read about most subjects and people felt immediately at ease with him. He had a sincere desire to share the knowledge which he had gleaned over a lifetime of reading and studying; it was as if he had discovered a great wonder and wanted to share it with everyone.

He often stayed up late listening to music on the radio. He enjoyed all kinds of music; jazz, blues, swing, classical, and especially marches. Although he liked music, carrying a tune was difficult. All the songs he sang, no matter what the words, were sung to the melody of the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

It has been said of JJP that he enjoyed New York State apples, good champagne, and a good story, not necessarily in that order. There wasn't a single coin in his eclectic collection that didn't have a story attached. Some of the stories were a little spicy, some almost incredible. On the envelopes of his coins one frequently finds cryptic reminders to himself such as "from the one-armed man in Boston." or "from the fat lady at the end of the table." He was once quoted as saying that the excitement in collecting was the thrill of the chase.

At last "the edge" of the coin, that part rarely seen. At a 4th of July picnic in 1936 JJP met Gehring, the person who would be the love of his life, his partner and supporter for the next 60 years. Mom was working at Kodak for the summer, making money to

offset her college loans and scholarships. On Labor Day weekend of 1937 after her graduation from college, Dad and Mom were married. It was raining when they went into the church, but as they turned around at the end of the ceremony, the afternoon sun cascaded through the stained glass window into the sanctuary. They said, all things considered, it was a sign for the future. Their relationship, in all of its colors and textures, was as sharp and shiny as the edge of a Proof coin, though sometimes as bumpy as a reeded edge. Dad had a passion for coins and Mom understood. The dedication she gave him, the letters she typed for him, the places she went with him; all were the threads of a fabric which supported his love of his hobby. Mom loved Dad and had faith in him. In 1954, there was no question in her mind about taking a second mortgage on their house to finance his dream for them to go to Cairo, Egypt, so he could participate in the King Farouk Palace Collection auction. In a way, Dad's collection is a reflection of Mom's love for Dad.

In looking at the coins which JJP collected, one realizes that he had a special love for one thing: he loved Proof coins. He liked their shiny surfaces; he liked the sharpness of the edges; he liked the fact that they were made special, brilliant, sparkling. JJP was as varied in his interests and passions as the hundreds of thousands of coins which he collected in his lifetime; from the rarest Proof \$20 gold piece, to the Belgian one centime piece from the Wheaties box. John Jay Pittman was a true rarity, a unique Proof; magnificently toned, but slightly impaired, because, after all, he was only human. We shall miss him — very much.

*Polly Edwards Pittman
Rochester, New York*



John Jay and Gehring Pittman prepare a display of various treasures from his collection.

John Jay Pittman was one of the true titans of numismatics, known personally to almost everyone who attended a numismatic convention, auction, or coin club meeting in the past half century. With his wife, Gehring, he traveled extensively throughout the United States, and literally to the ends of the earth to pursue his passion for numismatics.

During my long career as a professional numismatist, I have met many wonderful people, all of whom enjoyed the hobby and loved their coins. But I can say without hesitation that I never met anyone who loved coins, coin collecting, and coin collectors as much as John Jay Pittman loved them. John spent most of his adult life collecting coins, but I think what he really enjoyed the most was the "show-and-tell" aspect of the hobby. From the very beginning of his numismatic journey in the 1940's, when he joined the Rochester, New York, Coin Club, and the American Numismatic Association, he loved to display and talk about his coins. At countless conventions and coin club meetings throughout the country, John constantly displayed various treasures from his collection. I do not think it hyperbole to state that no one in history ever won as many "First Place" or "Best of Show" awards as did John Jay Pittman. He actually became so embarrassed at always winning awards for his displays that he worried that others would become discouraged and not display their coins. So, in his later years, he generally displayed only in non-competitive fashion so that others might compete, win, and ultimately receive the same satisfaction that he had enjoyed so many times over the years.

John Jay Pittman's desire to show and talk about his coins was not limited to doing so on the formal basis of competitive exhibits or ANA style lectures, both of which he did for decades. What really gave him pleasure was showing his coins one-on-one to an individual who would then sit and talk to him about coins for hours. It is amazing how many people have told me a story about John bringing a particular item to a convention or coin club meeting, just to show them. Of course, he almost always showed the item to many others as well, but John had a unique way of making people feel that he was giving them a private, confidential viewing; and, in a way, he was.

John Jay Pittman loved looking at other people's coins as well. He always took the time to examine virtually every coin I ever had on display at the conventions I attended, and he always wanted to know all of the details. To John, the true pleasure of collecting was in the details, and he wanted to know where and how the coins had been acquired, and who had owned them previously; he rarely asked what any coin had cost. He examined coins at many other tables, as well as all of the exhibits, and he would often ask me if I had seen a given coin. If I had not, he recommended that I do so as soon as possible in order that we might talk about it later; often, we immediately went together to see the coin in question. If I was going to attend a particular auction, he would ask me to examine



David W. Akers

coins in which he had a special interest, once again with the idea that later we could discuss them in depth. John had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge about coins, but current value and "investment potential" were not of great interest or importance to him. He rarely, if ever, purchased a coin with a concern as to how much it might be worth someday. After all, he never planned on selling it anyway! It was the history, the beauty, the rarity, the story behind the coin, that intrigued John, and this is what made him the ultimate collector, and an incredibly knowledgeable one at that. Very few people, including professional numismatists and serious numismatic students alike, possessed the breadth and depth of numismatic knowledge that John Jay Pittman had at his command.

He had a remarkable memory that constantly amazed me and everyone who knew him. He could remember and recite the most minute details of a coin he had

seen, or a numismatic transaction or event in which he had been involved, years, even decades, later. His memory was so exceptional that in most cases he did not keep extensive written records of the facts related to items in his collection. From his perspective, he did not need to, simply because he clearly remembered them. Unfortunately, with his death, most of the priceless stories and details of his collecting journey that spanned more than half a century, passed into history with him. I have been able to reconstruct much of the more mundane information such as when, where, from whom, and for how much John purchased an item, from various notes, ledgers, catalogues, and coin envelopes, but the information that John prized most, the "story" behind the purchase or acquisition, has not survived as often as we all would have liked.

The story of the building of the John Jay Pittman Collection is as remarkable as the man who built it. John showed a preliminary interest in coins as a young boy of 10 when his grandmother gave him a collection of Mexican coins, but he first became really serious about collecting in early 1943. At that time, he wrote to virtually every major coin dealer in the country (unlike today, there were not all that many nationally prominent ones half a century ago) and first asked for price lists, auction catalogues, and reference books. Before he spent significant sums on coins, he spent both time and money acquiring knowledge, a trait which served him well for the next 50 plus years. He continued reading and learning throughout his life, and he examined countless thousands of coins with his now famous black metal magnifying glass, looking for and remembering details that others missed.

Some of the famous dealers of that era with whom John first corresponded and later developed both a personal and business relationship were B. Max Mehl, Abe Kosoff, Sol Kaplan, James ("Diamond Jim") Kelly, Barney Bluestone, George Bauer, David Bullowa, Abner Kreisberg, Charles Wormser, Stack's, Michael Kolman, Jim Charlton, Wayte Raymond, and many others, large and small, domestic and foreign. The in-depth knowledge that John possessed earned him

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great respect from all of these numismatic legends, and they correctly recognized him as a man of great character and ability. Even the venerable B. Max Mehl, who rarely, if ever, admitted in print the expertise or even the existence of other numismatists, once referred to John (in his famous Golden Jubilee Sale catalogue in 1950 when John was only 37 years old) as a man, "Whom I (Mehl) consider one of the keenest students of U.S. proof coins", and then quoted a letter John had written him concerning the Proof 1846 Silver Dollar. Such a personal mention was unprecedented in a Mehl catalogue; Mehl also often sent catalogue copy to John for review and comments prior to printing!

John Jay Pittman's collecting interests were eclectic to say the least. With the exception of ancient and medieval coins, John collected just about everything; and over the course of this sale, Part One, and the two succeeding sales scheduled for 1998, collectors will find a remarkable array of numismatic material from the United States, Cuba, Canada, Great Britain, Russia, Japan, Sweden, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, and just about every other country one would care to name. In this first sale, I have begun with 106 lots of Canadian coins, including examples of the exceedingly rare and famous 1936 Dot Cent and Dot 10 Cent piece, two of the items John prized most in his entire collection. (The balance of John's Canadian coins and all of his other foreign coins will be sold in Part Three, now scheduled for sale in October 1998.) This Canadian section is followed by 1158 lots of U.S. coins, including Colonials through Twenty Cent Pieces, and then Patterns, Commemoratives, Coins of Hawaii, Proof Sets, Gold Dollars, Half Eagles, Double Eagles, and finally, Private and Territorial Gold coins.

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will be held on May 20-21, 1998, again in Baltimore, Maryland. This second sale will feature U.S. Quarter Dollars through Trade Dollars, plus Quarter Eagles, Three Dollar Gold Pieces, Half Eagles, and Eagles. Also included in Part Two will be U.S. Paper Money, Medals and Tokens. Highlighting the second sale will be Proof examples of the 1834, 1835, 1836 and 1848 Quarter Eagles, the 1835 Half Eagle, and the 1838 and 1848 Eagles. Also featured will be original cased Proof sets, including the gold denominations, dated 1845 and 1846. John's specialty was early U.S. Proof coins and, in addition to the gold coins and sets just mentioned, Part Two will contain an incredible group of Proof Quarters and Half Dollars, including many Bust Type issues, and a wonderful run of Proof Liberty Seated Dollars from 1840-1858. There are also extensive runs of Proof Quarter Eagles and Eagles, complete from 1888-1907, but also with some earlier issues in the 1860's and 1870's. The second sale contains not only Proofs, however, but also many outstanding quality business strikes in all the aforementioned denominations. I hope that all of the readers of this catalogue will be able to participate in this second sale in the series.

Most people have always assumed that John Jay Pittman was a financially wealthy man. Rumors have abounded for years that (a) he was extremely wealthy with vast holdings of Kodak stock, for whom he worked for over 35 years; or (b), his wife, Gehring, came from a very wealthy family; or (c) both of the foregoing. Actually, none of the rumors is even close to true. The truth is that John Jay Pittman managed to assemble one of the greatest collections of our time with limited financial resources. He was always on a restricted budget and so knowledge and opportunity were crucial to his success. He acquired

the knowledge he needed and then took full advantage of the buying opportunities that were presented to him. But because of his financial limitations, he always had to make choices. For example, he could have afforded to buy famous rarities such as the 1804 Dollar, 1894-S Dime, 1913 Nickel etc., only if he had given up buying everything else. So he made the decision very early in his numismatic career to largely forego the famous, classic rarities and instead buy coins that were equally rare, but comparatively unappreciated, and thus undervalued. It was this kind of rationale that led John to collect early U.S. Proof coins. Back in the 1940's and 1950's, they were relatively inexpensive, especially when compared to the classic rarities, and so by purchasing Proofs instead of popular rarities, John felt he was able to make his limited coin budget stretch much further than it would have otherwise. In later years, as U.S. coin prices escalated, pushing the types of coins he liked to buy out of his price range, he restricted his purchases mostly to foreign coins, thereby enabling him to acquire a collection of truly international scope. After John retired from Kodak in 1971, he had very little extra money to spend on coins, but he still managed to acquire some outstanding pieces by trading either duplicates or coins he was willing to give up to acquire coins he wanted more.

Not only were John Jay Pittman's collecting tastes extremely wide ranging, he also legitimately could be described as an "equal opportunity" buyer; his sources were as varied as his tastes and over the years he purchased from an incredibly diverse group of sellers. Of course, he was a very big buyer at auctions, but he also would buy a single coin from an individual he had not known previously, or ever saw again. Often, he remembered the seller only by a description, such as "the man at the end of the room", "the old guy at the bar", or "the stringy haired blonde in the silver Porsche". But he always remembered every detail of the transaction, and most especially, the coins themselves. He rarely, if ever, used an agent in the traditional sense, although on occasion he did have someone bid for him at a sale he was unable to attend. However, John always inspected every coin himself and relied entirely on his own knowledge and good judgement. For me, the most amazing aspect of the John Jay Pittman Collection is that John built it entirely on his own, from scratch, one coin at a time, with limited financial resources at his disposal. I do not know of any other collection of comparable diversity, quality, and value that was assembled under similar conditions. So John Jay Pittman's collection, in many ways, is as unique and "one-of-a-kind" as he was.



The Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, ANA's highest honor, was awarded to John Jay Pittman in 1980. This medal will not be sold in the Pittman Collection Sales; it will be retained by the Pittman family.

Introduction

As I have mentioned, John Jay Pittman was an inveterate auction buyer from a fairly early stage of his numismatic adventure. Although he made some important auction purchases in 1946 (at the "World's Greatest Collection" sale, and the William C. Atwater sale to name just two sales in which he participated that year), the first sale in which he was a major participant was B. Max Mehl's sale of the collection of the Abilene, Kansas, pharmacist, Will W. Neil, in June 1947. John purchased a number of great coins at that sale (all bids were mail bids in Mehl's sales so John's participation was from the comfort of his own living room in Rochester, New York), including the famous 1802 Half Dime which was the first, and one of the very few, classic date rarities John ever purchased. Over the next decade and a half, John actively bid in many sales, but it is apparent that a relatively small number of famous "name" sales served as the sources for many of his most important acquisitions. In addition to the Neil sale in 1947, the sales that figured the most prominently in John's building of his collection were the Allenburger/Renz Collections sale (called "A Royal Sale" by Mehl) in 1948, the "Memorable Collection" sale (Numismatic Gallery, 1948), Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection) in 1950, Numismatic Gallery's 1950 Menjou sale, David Bullowa's May 1952 sale, the Palace Collections of Egypt (King Farouk) sale of 1954, the Thomas Melish Collection sale (A. Kosoff, 1956), and the Milton Holmes Collection sale (Stack's, 1960). Of course, John bid in many other sales as well, especially in the annual ANA Convention sales from 1946 on, and numerous Barney Bluestone, Wayte Raymond and New Netherlands sales in the 1940's, but the big "name" sales just mentioned were the most significant in terms of the quantity and quality of the pieces he purchased.

Special mention must be made of the Farouk sale, held in Cairo, Egypt, in late February and early March of 1954. Both John and Gehring attended the sale in person (among the few Americans brave enough to do so) and, without question, this sale was the defining moment of John's numismatic career. At the sale, he spent an amount that for him was an enormous sum of money, far more than he had ever spent before, or did subsequently. His purchases at the Farouk sale included many of his rarest and most significant coins which ultimately formed the foundation of his great collection, but the trip itself was made with considerable potential risk, both financial and personal. To finance the trip, and to pay for his purchases, John had to take out a second mortgage on his home; for a man who basically eschewed debt, especially long-term debt, all his life, this was a commitment of monumental proportions. It was not until nearly six years later that he was able to finally pay off this debt in full, and to do so, he had to part with some of his much beloved Proof coins.

In this catalogue, I have paid particular attention to the pedigrees of the coins since I feel they tell a great deal about the effort required and time spent by John Jay Pittman in assembling this great collection, one coin at a time; they are also the key ingredient in the historical record of the collection. Pedigree's have been checked and double checked against John's coin envelopes, ledgers, occasional invoices, and the auction catalogues where applicable. However, despite the care taken, the reader should be aware that errors are always possible in the area of pedigrees, especially when no photographs appear in the catalogues to match with the actual coins themselves; unfortunately this lack of photographs is usually the case with coins sold in the 1940's and 1950's, when John Jay Pittman purchased most of his coins. Nevertheless, it is believed that the pedigrees are accurate as stated.

John Jay Pittman, the ultimate collector, would have found it difficult to be here to see his collection sold if he were alive today. He loved his coins almost as if they were members of his family, and parting with them would have brought him sorrow, not joy, regardless of how much money they realized. For John Jay Pittman, his coins did not represent money, wealth, or security. They were an integral part of the tightly woven fabric of his life, an end in themselves rather than a means to an end. In no small measure, they were an essential aspect of the man himself. Separating John Jay Pittman, the man, from John Jay Pittman, the collector, is not possible; they are the same, fused into one endearing human being who will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

John Jay Pittman passed away on February 17, 1996, just a few hours shy of his 83rd birthday. He lived a long and accomplished life and left behind not only his family and closest friends, but a legion of acquaintances and admirers. The field of numismatics and the hobby of coin collecting have been tremendously enhanced by John Jay Pittman's presence and personality, perhaps more so than by any other individual in the second half of the Twentieth Century. It is my sincerest hope that this catalogue (and those of the subsequent John Jay Pittman Collection sales) does honor to his memory, and will stand as a fitting tribute to his towering numismatic achievement.



Medal issued by the Rochester Numismatic Association to commemorate JJP's term as 38th President in 1950. Struck in gold from bullion supplied by JJP— Unique! This medal will not be sold in the Pittman Collection Sales; it will be retained by the Pittman family.

David W. Akers
Stuart, Florida

COLOR PLATE 1



COLOR PLATE 2



156



159



162



163



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161



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169



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196



202



205



205



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222



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266



COLOR PLATE 3



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375



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407



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426



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COLOR PLATE 4



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COLOR PLATE 5



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772



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783



797



799



800



801



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810



814



823



825



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828



COLOR PLATE 6



832



833

COLOR PLATE 7



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Gold Coins Only Shown



835

COLOR PLATE 8



863



864



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866



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912



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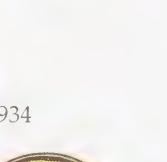
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COLOR PLATE 9



COLOR PLATE 10



COLOR PLATE 11



COLOR PLATE 12



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1205



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1240



1241



1242



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1250



1257



1259



1260



The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One

Session One

Lots 1-397

Tuesday, October 21, 1997
6:00 P.M. Sharp

COINS OF CANADA

THE FAMOUS AND EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1936 "DOT" CENT OF CANADA

One Of Only Three Confirmed Examples Known,
All In The Pittman Collection



Lot 1



1. 1936, Dot below date. Gem Specimen, Matte Proof surfaces. Light reddish gold color with areas of mottled, darker toning. No spots, problems or impairments; in fact, the surfaces are very clean and unmarked. The coin has a sharp square rim, broad even inner borders, and a brilliant mirror edge. All design details are bold and well defined. There is a faint trace of blue and violet colors in the toning. This piece is virtually identical in overall appearance to the other Specimen Cents issued from 1922-1936 (no dot), but decidedly different in surface texture from the matte Specimens of the new George VI design which appeared in 1937. JJP purchased this Cent, along with the 10 Cents offered in Lot 15, as part of a complete, original cased set, including the three Dot coins, from Maurice LaFortune in November 1951. LaFortune was a former employee of the Royal Canadian Mint and one of the founders of the Canadian Numismatic Association. JJP paid Mr. LaFortune a total of \$400 for the set and was allowed to pay for it over a period of approximately eight months. On April 10, 1964, the set was stolen from the Pittman home in Rochester, New York, but some weeks later, the Dot Cent and Dot 10 Cents were returned to JJP in an envelope. The other coins in the set were never recovered. Although many coins were stolen in the robbery, the thieves apparently realized that a few were just too rare and well known to be easily sold, including the 1936 Dot Cent and Dot 10 Cents. Some of the coins that were returned were damaged since the coins were simply placed loosely in the envelope, allowing them to come in contact with one another. Fortunately, however, the Dot coins offered here were not damaged. A second Dot Cent stolen at the same time did not fare as well and received a number of scratches in the field.

This is one of the most famous and revered of all Canadian coins. Without question, it and the Dot 10 Cents are the two rarest non-pattern coins from Canada. Although there have been unconfirmed rumors of one other example, it appears that only three examples of the Cent are known, all of which are in the Pittman Collection! The first is offered here, the other two will be sold with the balance of the Pittman Canadian coins in October 1998. For years there has been considerable controversy surrounding these "Dot" coins. Perhaps the story is best begun by reprinting the following article that first appeared in a 1957 Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine issue and later appeared in the April 1962 issue of the Canadian Numismatic Association Journal. The article was written by G.R.L. Potter, a specialist in Canadian coins and a very close personal friend of John Jay Pittman, in response to an earlier article that made claims concerning the Dot coins with which Mr. Potter obviously disagreed.

The 1937 Dot Coins of Canada

by G.R.L. Potter

I read with growing astonishment the article on Canada's dot coins that appeared on page 1048 of the May (1957) Scrapbook. The astonishment was generated by the fact that the situation as suggested by Mr. Elliott differs in practically every particular from the picture as we understand it in the Canadian Numismatic Association.

Before going further into the matter, I should perhaps make one or two points clear. In a numismatic sense, the existence of the dot coins was first noted by the late James Hector, of Ottawa, about 1940-1941, at which time he was endeavouring to get together a complete set of our decimal coinage. It was the dot on the twenty-five cents that first attracted Mr. Hector's notice, and by diligent search he was able to find several copies of the coin. I first met Mr. Hector about 1942, and he showed me his dot coins. Some months after our first meeting, Mr. Hector told me he had located a third collector, who turned out to be Mr. M. Lafontaine, then employed at the Ottawa Mint. I might say, in passing, that this small group of three, together with Mr. L.J.P. Brunet of the Archives, was the nucleus of the present Canadian Numismatic Association.

Mr. Lafontaine was shown the dot coins, which were entirely strange to him, and undertook to look into the matter. This involved a good deal of delving into the files, but he was able ultimately to inform us that the coin was part of an emergency issue, and that there were, in addition to the twenty-five cents, ten cent and one cent pieces so marked. The two smaller denominations, however, proved impossible to find in circulation, although the twenty-five cents was fairly easily found. While Mr. Elliott's article is substantially true in this regard, it should be noted that at least two specimens of the cent are said to have been found in circulation. I have not seen either of these coins, but in view of the repute of the owners it seems unlikely that they are deceiving themselves. One of the coins, moreover, has been shown in the United States to a number of coin groups, and I have never heard of its authenticity being questioned.

To return now to Mr. Elliott's article, the contention of the first two paragraphs is that the two lower denominations were struck only "for the 12 cased sets which were presented to high public officials". Let us consider this contention for a moment. Here are three coins, struck for the express purpose of coping with a shortage that had to be met promptly. Mr. Elliott contends that one coin only of the series was put into circulation, but that dies were prepared for the other two and twelve copies were struck from each for presentation purposes. Collectors who have made a study of mint procedures will, I am afraid, find it very difficult to accept this theory; the more it is examined, the more baseless it seems. Fortunately, however, we need not rely on more or less ingenious speculations in this matter. In 1952, the late Wayte Raymond published a new edition of his *Coins and Tokens of Canada* which omitted all mention of the dot coins. I wrote Mr. Raymond to ask why the coins were not listed, and he replied that in view of the failure of the Mint Reports or any other official document to mention the coins he did not feel justified in including them. In these circumstances, I wrote the Master of the Mint as follows:

Dear Mr. Ronson,

I have been instructed to write to ask if you would be good enough to confirm or, if necessary, correct, certain information regarding the "dot" coinage of 1937.

According to articles that have appeared in some leading numismatic publications, there arose early in 1937 a demand for cents, ten cent pieces, and twenty-five cent pieces. Dies for the new reign were in preparation, but were not available. In these circumstances, the 1936 dies of the three denominations in question were marked with a punch, to distinguish the strikings from coins actually minted in 1936, and sufficient coins were struck from these dies to meet the demand

until the new dies were available.

The quantities struck have been given as:

1 Cent.....	678,823
10 Cents.....	191,237
25 Cents.....	151,322

and it is understood that all coins were placed in circulation.

As you are probably aware, there has been, during the past four or five years, a really remarkable recrudescence of interest in Canadian numismatics, especially in the United States. The "dot" coins, in particular, are much sought but, in the absence of any official statement in the Mint Report, and in view of the great difficulty collectors have experienced in locating copies of the cent and ten cents, there is a disposition in certain quarters to challenge the existence, and even the status, of the coins in question. We should, therefore, very much appreciate an official statement from you, with a view to clearing up the question once and for all.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours faithfully,

G.R.L. Potter,
Corresponding Secretary

To this letter I received the following reply:

Royal Canadian Mint

July 22, 1952

Dear Mr. Potter,

With reference to your letter of June 24, 1952, the figures you quote for the one cent, ten cent and twenty-five cent pieces dated 1936 with "dot" are correct and all were put into circulation. The "dot" on coins dated 1936 was put there to denote they were struck in 1937 due to a delay in receiving the 1937 dies.

Yours truly,

W.C. Ronson,
Master

The above correspondence was published on pages 6-7, Vol. III, No. 5 of *The CNA Bulletin*, 1952.

Now, the question naturally arises, if the twenty-five cent pieces are fairly easily found, and if a substantially larger number of dimes and about 4 1/2 times as many cents were issued, where have they all gone? Soon after this problem began to be discussed in the Ottawa group, we welcomed a new member in the person of Dr. Allon Peebles. Dr. Peebles possesses an unusually keen mind and, being a novice in the numismatic field, was able to look at the problem more objectively than those of us whose minds were to some extent affected by various preconceptions. He propounded a solution that remains the only plausible explanation of the situation and one that, I am convinced, is the true answer. The punchmark made in the dies was very small in all cases. Dr. Peebles suggests that, in the case of the cent and 10 cents, the tiny hole became plugged early in the run, and that from then on the coins would show at best a mere ghost of a dot, and would probably be quite indistinguishable from the ordinary 1936 strikings. Well, one may ask, how about inspection? To this, I think there are two answers. In the first place, an emergency existed, and there was therefore every reason for getting the coins to the banks as quickly as possible. In the second place, coins are inspected for major and conspicuous defects; any other procedure is obviously impossible. The dot is anything but conspicuous, and to suggest that every coin would have been scrutinized to make sure it was present is absurd. Its presence would be taken for granted, just as would that of any other element in the design.

Mr. Elliott is credited with saying that the dot on both the smaller coins is of the same size. The dots on mint specimens of all three coins have been accurately measured by the Eastman comparator, and have been found to be different in each case; that on the cent is very much smaller, and this difference is apparent to the unaided eye. While one punch was used for marking the dies, it is evident that the force applied differed in each instance.

Mr. Elliott's article concludes with a statement of the disposition of the twelve cased sets he alleges to exist. The first is described as:

"1 set (unique) with all denominations having the dot - Royal Canadian Mint."

I have checked and double-checked with the Mint officials since the article appeared, and they are emphatic in saying that they do not have a complete set of the coins, "unique" or otherwise.

The next listing reads:

"3 sets in museums (Ottawa, Vancouver and Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.)."

What are these museums in Ottawa and Vancouver? All collectors would be glad to know exactly where they may see such rare coins. I know nothing about Vancouver, but I am prepared to stick my neck out to the extent of saying that I know of just one set of the coins in Ottawa; it is in private possession, and I know the owner and where he got it. The Smithsonian will doubtless look after itself in this regard; if it possesses a set of the dot coins it is news to me.

Next listings:

"5 sets held by Canadian collectors."

I cannot criticise this assertion, beyond saying that it is the first I, or anyone with whom I am acquainted, has heard of these sets.

The list goes on:

"2 sets held by U.S. collectors."

I know of one U.S. collector - Mr. John J. Pittman - who owns two complete mint sets of the coins in Mint cases. I have seen both sets on several occasions; I know how and where Mr. Pittman acquired them. Neither he nor I know of any other complete sets, except for the Ottawa set mentioned above.

The article ends "The remaining set was broken up by a Canadian collector". It is difficult to visualize a collector fortunate enough to own a set of three of the rarest coins known to Canadian numismatics deliberately breaking it up, as I think most collectors will agree. I cannot help wondering here if, perhaps, Mr. Elliott has not received a garbled account of a transaction in which I was concerned. Some time after Mr. LaFortune had dug up the story from the Mint records, it occurred to him that there might possibly be some of the coins in the vaults, where a few specimen sets of past years were then available. He secured permission to examine the stock, and was fortunate enough to find a case with one complete set and another that contained the twenty-five cents and cent only (this, by the way, is an indication of the small account the Mint took of the coins - so far as they were concerned, they were just another job which was now past history). He acquired both groups, retaining the complete set and passing the incomplete one to another member of the club, from whose estate I subsequently acquired the coins. This was the source of the dot cent that sold for \$900 in my auction some two years since (1955) - the only recorded case of a public sale of the coin. (End of Potter's article.)

A few questions naturally arise from Mr. Potter's article. The two examples he notes were "found in circulation" have never been reliably authenticated and JJP, a man who spent much of his adult life in pursuit of the Dot coins, emphatically denounced their existence. The claim of the Mint Master that the entire large mintages of Dot Cents and Dot 10 Cent pieces were placed into circulation seems highly dubious. Certainly some coins would have shown up by now, and even if the punch in the die for the dot had "filled up" with grease or dirt, one would think that a few specimens would exist with at least a shadow of the dot, a condition quite common on U.S. 1922 "Plain" Cents which were similarly created when the mintmark filled. However, to my knowledge, no such pieces exist. The complete set mentioned in the article that was in the possession of someone in Ottawa (a different set from JJP's two complete sets according to Mr. Potter), is almost certainly the same as one of the Pittman sets. The complete set in original case that will be sold in Pittman III in 1998 was obtained from the widow of Mr. T. Roberts of Ottawa, another former Mint employee well known to Potter. JJP was always very secretive about where he acquired these Dot sets and perhaps even Mr. Potter did not know the true story. This conjecture is based on JJP's statement that the LaFortune set and the Roberts set, both of which he owned, were the only complete sets known to him. (Now, after the April 1964 robbery, only the Roberts set is still intact.) The second Dot Cent "discovered" by Mr. LaFortune at the Mint, which passed first to "another member of the club" and then to Mr. Potter, was sold at auction by Mr. Potter in 1955 for \$900. That probably was the same coin that was sold six years later in Jim Charlton's 1961 CNA sale as Lot 2054 for \$3,400 Canadian, there called "Red Unc." It was purchased by John Jay Pittman. (If it is not the same coin, it could be the long rumored fourth example.) In my opinion, it is also a Specimen since it has a brilliant mirror edge, a broad inner rim, and a full strike. The surfaces, however, are quite different from JJP's other two 1936 Dot Cents and are more similar to the surfaces of the 1937 George VI matte Specimen Cents. (Other experts in the field of Canadian coins, including the ultimate expert, JJP himself, strongly considered it a business strike, so obviously opinions differ on this piece.)

In summary, it appears that the following constitute the only known examples of the 1936 Dot Cent.

1. This example. Gem Specimen. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune in 1951 as part of a complete, cased Specimen set of 1936 that contained the three Dot denominations. The set was stolen from JJP in 1964, but the Dot Cent and Dot 10 Cents were later returned unharmed. Mr. LaFortune was a former RCM employee who obtained the set while working at the Mint.
2. The coin in the complete, cased Specimen set of 1936 that will be sold in Part Three of the Pittman Collection sale in 1998. It is a Gem Specimen, virtually "as struck". Purchased by JJP from the widow of T. Roberts of Ottawa, Ontario, in 1954. Roberts, like LaFortune, was a former RCM employee who acquired the set while he was at the Mint. He had passed away in December 1951.

3. The coin from the partial set acquired by M. LaFortune from the Mint while he was employed there. Later obtained by G.R.L. Potter and sold at auction in 1955 for \$900. Subsequently, purchased by JJP from Jim Charlton's 1961 CNA auction in Hamilton, Ontario, as Lot 2054, where it was catalogued as "Red Uncirculated." In my opinion, it is a Specimen, but with the surface quality and texture of the matte Specimens of 1937, as opposed to the earlier matte Specimens of 1922-1936. Now with scratches in the right obverse field. Some other experts, including JJP, always considered this example to be a "Red Unc." or business strike.

4. Rumored, but unconfirmed. If the 1961 CNA coin and the Potter example are, in fact, different, then the Potter coin would be the fourth piece known. Since there are four Dot 10 Cent pieces, it seems reasonable that there would be four Dot Cents as well.

The mintages and/or disposition (i.e. allegedly all into circulation) of the Dot Cents and Dot 10 Cents as claimed by Mint Master Ronson in 1952 must be in error since no obvious business strike examples of either denomination are known or even reliably reported. Are the mintage figures in error? Were they really Dot coins at all? Were they all melted for some reason? No one seems to really know the answers to any of these questions. So perhaps the Dot coins will always remain not only the rarest and most famous of Canadian coins, but the most mysterious and enigmatic as well.

FIVE CENT PIECES



2. **1944, Gem Specimen.** Struck in steel. Virtually "as struck" with full mint brilliance and no hairlines, marks or flaws of any kind. Outstanding overall quality that could not be surpassed. Rare, but not especially so by Canadian Specimen standards. Perhaps as many as 75-100 pieces are known, including seven in the Pittman Collection. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune in October 1952 along with many other modern Canadian Specimen coins from the 1940's and 1950's. This group included multiples of 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951 Specimen sets (called "Proof" sets in JJP's notes, as they were always referred to at that time), and many Specimen singles of various dates and denominations. The total price paid for the group was \$220 and this was paid off over a six month period.

The 5 Cent Pieces of 1944 and 1945 are interesting items. They were struck on steel planchets that were plated first with nickel, then chromium. In place of denticles, at the reverse rim is the Morse Code pattern for "We Win When We Work Willingly". This composition was again used from 1951-1954.

3. **1944, Very Choice Specimen.** Full brilliance with a flawless reverse, a few very faint hairlines on the obverse, and a couple of tiny marks in the fields. Much choicer than the description makes it sound and really very close to Gem quality. Rare. Purchased from M. LaFortune in 1952 as part of a large group of Specimens.

4. **1944, Choice Specimen.** A third example. Fully brilliant, similar in appearance to the preceding except for a noticeable hairline scratch running across George's ear into the hair. Lintmark next to the colon between D and G. Line across right vertical of V, possibly as made. Rare, only 75-100 Specimens known. Purchased at the same time as the two preceding lots.

5. **1951 High Relief.** Beaver reverse. Choice Uncirculated or better. Struck in steel. Fully brilliant with prooflike surfaces and some light brush or wipe lines on the obverse. These lines are also present on all of the 1951 High Relief 5 Cent pieces that follow and, therefore, probably occurred at the time of or immediately after striking. Excellent quality overall, no nicks, scratches or marks of any significance. This coin, and all the 1951 High Relief 5 Cent pieces that follow, were obtained from T. Roberts of Ottawa, Ontario, at face value in the summer of 1951. When JJP acquired these High Relief 5 Cent pieces, they were not known to be rare or anything special.

The High Relief 5 Cent pieces of 1951 were created when an old high relief obverse die was mistakenly used to strike a small, but unknown number of coins. Earlier, it had been determined that due to the hardness of the nickel-chromium plated steel planchets and the high relief of the Beaver and King George VI designs, new lower relief models for both the obverse and the reverse would be necessary for the coins to strike up properly. Due to a mix-up, however, an old high relief obverse die was used for a limited run of coins. Based on this variety's rarity, it seems reasonable that the number struck was just a tiny fraction of the overall mintage of 4,313,310 Beaver type 5 Cent pieces for 1951, probably no more than a few thousand pieces. JJP's original roll, obtained in the year of issue from Mint employee Roberts and since broken up, is the only "large" quantity of this variety that I have ever heard of. The High Relief variety is most easily identified by the position of the last A of GRATIA which points directly at a denticle. On the Low Relief variety, the A points between two denticles.



10. **1951 High Relief. Choice Uncirculated.** Another. Fully brilliant, fully prooflike, light hairlines from brushing or wiping, probably "as made" at the Mint.
11. **1951 High Relief. Choice Uncirculated.** Another. Full brilliance, fully prooflike, unfinished area near S of GEORGIUS. Some of the brushed hairlines that appear on all of these 5 Cent pieces, but basically "as struck" otherwise.
12. **1951 High Relief. Choice Uncirculated.** Another. Still in the Choice category despite a few more noticeable hairlines on the obverse. Very brilliant, fully prooflike.
13. **1951 High Relief. Uncirculated.** Another. Brilliant and fully prooflike. Moderately hairlined on the obverse, the reverse with that brushed appearance that all the other examples of this issue offered here have. Once again, this is the variety with an unfinished area near the S of GEORGIUS.
14. **1951 High Relief. Uncirculated.** A final example. Brilliant and fully prooflike as are all of the preceding. One long scratch runs from the rim through the second G of GEORGIUS, across George's nose and cheek to his earlobe. There are also a few hairlines and the brushing that seems to be present on all these coins. It is so consistent in nature from coin to coin that it seems likely that it happened at the Mint.

TEN CENT PIECES

THE LEGENDARY 1936 "DOT" 10 CENT PIECE OF CANADA

**One Of Only Four Known.
The Only Two Collectible Examples Are In The Pittman Collection**



Lot 15



1936 "DOT" 10 CENT PIECE OF CANADA



15. **1936, Dot below wreath. Gem Specimen**, Matte Proof surfaces. Fully struck with a sharp edge and bold details everywhere. Overall, the coin has a very delicate pale yellow-gray color. However, it has been lightly lacquered and there are a couple of areas of slightly darker yellowing of the lacquer near the obverse border at K-3, and two small iridescent toning areas near the left reverse rim at K-10. The coin is superb, basically "as struck," and the fields show prominent signs of die polishing as evidenced by numerous raised die scratches. The fields, devices and rims are all literally flawless. JJP purchased this coin, along with the Dot Cent in Lot 1, as part of an original, cased 1936 Specimen set from Maurice LaFortune on 11/12/51. JJP paid \$400 for the set and was given eight months to pay the balance with no interest. I think most collectors and dealers would love terms like that today!

Together with the 1936 Dot Cent, the 1936 Dot 10 Cent piece is one of the most famous and important of all Canadian issues. Despite a reported mintage of 191,237 pieces and a written confirmation from the Mint Master in 1952 that, "All were put into circulation", in 1937, the actual year of their mintage as an emergency issue, there has never been a single example found in circulation. In fact, there has never even been a rumor of such a coin. There has also never been an example called "Uncirculated" ever reliably reported. At various times when JJP displayed his prized Dot coins, he referred to four examples of each denomina-

nation being known, his three Dot Cents plus one additional piece whose specific ownership and location he never stated, and two examples of the 10 Cent piece, "In a Canadian government museum", that were in addition to the two pieces that he owned. These two additional 10 Cent pieces are actually in the Bank of Canada Collection as confirmed to me by Sandy Campbell. They are not likely ever to be available to collectors, and so the two Pittman coins are the only collectible examples of this great rarity. Furthermore, no 1936 Dot 10 Cent piece has ever been offered for sale at public auction until this example offered here.

In summary, following is the roster of known examples of the legendary 1936 Dot 10 Cent piece of Canada.

1. This example. Gem Specimen, matte surface. Obtained by JJP as part of a complete 1936 Specimen set containing the three Dot coins. Purchased in 1951 from Maurice LaFortune, a former Royal Canadian Mint employee and one of the founders of the Canadian Numismatic Association.
2. The coin in the complete cased set of 1936 Specimen coins containing all three Dot coins which will be sold in the Pittman Collection Sale, Part Three, currently scheduled for October 1998. This set was purchased by JJP from the widow of T. Roberts, a former RCM employee, in 1954. The Dot 10 Cent piece in the set is also a Gem Specimen with matte surfaces and superb toning.
3. The example in the Bank of Canada Collection.
4. A duplicate in the Bank of Canada Collection.

TWENTY-FIVE CENT PIECES



16. **1931, Choice Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with full mint frost and beautiful light multicolored toning. A couple of tiny marks in the field out in front of George's nose, but very clean otherwise. The colors are blue-green, greenish-gold and pale violet all mixed together to make a very attractively toned coin. Rather scarce in this grade as are all George V 25 Cent pieces. This and all the 25 Cent pieces that follow were acquired from T. Roberts of Ottawa, Ontario, in June 1951 at face value.

17. A group of three George V 25 Cent pieces dated **1931, 1935 and 1936**. All three coins are **Uncirculated** and have light natural golden toning. All of the coins have some light contact marks and abrasions throughout the fields and devices, but none of these marks is severe enough to warrant special mention. Three pieces.

18. Another group of three George V 25 Cent pieces including **1931, 1935 and 1936**. The 1931 is Uncirculated with full mint luster, light reddish-gold toning and a prominent green verdigris spot at V. The 1935 is Almost Uncirculated with a number of light abrasions in the fields, and the 1936 is a very attractive Uncirculated coin with beautiful light reddish-gold toning, mostly at the periphery. Three pieces.

19. A group of four George V 25 Cent pieces including two pieces dated **1935** and two dated **1936**. All four coins are strictly **Uncirculated** and have varying degrees of light to medium gold and reddish-gold toning. Four pieces.

20. Another group of four George V 25 Cent pieces including two pieces dated **1935** and two dated **1936**. Both of the 1935 coins are Uncirculated with very attractive natural toning, mostly about the periphery. Of the 1936 pieces, one is Almost Uncirculated, the other a nicely toned Uncirculated, very similar in overall appearance to the two 1935 coins. These all have full mint luster and minimal marks except the one 1936 that has a trace of wear. Four pieces.

21. A final group of George V 25 Cent pieces, this consisting of six pieces, four of them dated **1935**, two dated **1936**. Grades range from **Almost Uncirculated to Uncirculated** and all of the coins have natural light toning, mostly in shades of reddish-gold near the periphery. All of the coins have light contact marks and abrasions, but none of the marks is particularly serious. Six pieces.

FIFTY CENT PIECES



22. **1929, Uncirculated.** Well struck with full mint frost and beautiful light peripheral toning, primarily reddish-gold. The reverse is very choice quality with only a few very light marks. The obverse has a few more marks, but none of them is particularly serious and they are very light and scattered throughout the fields and across George's head. Scarce in Mint State as are all George V 50 Cent pieces; 228,328 pieces were struck. JJP acquired this coin and all the other business strike 50 Cent pieces that follow from T. Roberts in June 1951 at face value. Roberts was a former RCM employee.



23. **1929, Uncirculated.** Medium gray and bluish-gold toning. Sharply struck with full mint frost. There are a few light little contact marks behind the head and in the field in front of the face, but nothing particularly detracting. The reverse, in particular, has almost flawless fields with virtually no marks of any kind. Obtained from George Bauer in the 1940's at face value.

24. **1929, Almost Uncirculated.** Not many marks, but a trifle dull. Just a trace of light reddish-gold toning. One noticeable abrasion across George's ear, but otherwise the fields have relatively few marks, none serious.

Enlarged Photographs

Most of the photographs in this catalogue have been enlarged to a minimum of 30 millimeters. The photographs of certain featured coins have been increased in diameter to 45 millimeters or more.

FABULOUS GEM SPECIMEN 1934 50 CENT PIECE

One Of Only 5-6 Specimens Known, Three of Which Are In The Pittman Collection



25. **1934, Gem Specimen.** Lightly lacquered. One tiny imperfection (probably Mint made) on the obverse rim below George's bust, but the coin is otherwise flawless and "as struck". There is just a trace of light reddish-gold toning around the rims. Prominent evidence of die polishing is seen throughout the fields on both the obverse and reverse. This magnificent specimen has an amazing overall appearance with superb brilliance and luster and flawless surfaces; without the minute edge imperfection, the coin could legitimately be called "perfect." The edge is

sharp and square and there is full brilliance between each segment of the milling. This is an extraordinary coin that must be seen to be fully appreciated.

In Specimen condition, the 1934 50 Cent piece is a major rarity. Although the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa did not keep records of the exact number of Specimens struck, it is believed that only 5-6 pieces are known, three of which are in the Pittman Collection. The two additional Pittman examples, one single and one in a complete 1934 Specimen set, will be sold in October 1998 with the balance of the Pittman Canadian coins.



26. **1934, Uncirculated.** A full Mint State coin with superb luster and frosty surfaces. A few light marks scattered throughout the fields, nothing at all serious. Beautiful natural toning, mostly on the periphery of the obverse but slightly deeper into the fields on the reverse. The colors are primarily reddish-gold with just a trace of blue and violet. This is a very scarce, low mintage date; only 39,539 pieces were minted and Mint State examples can reasonably be termed "rare". Acquired at face value from T. Roberts in June 1951.

27. **1934, Uncirculated.** Another fully struck, lustrous Mint State coin. This piece has a noticeable scuff in front of George's nose and forehead, but nothing else is worthy of mention. The obverse has beautiful light peripheral toning, mostly through the legends, while the reverse has lovely medium reddish-gold toning throughout as well as a touch of purple and blue right near the leaves.

28. **1934, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Frosty and a bit lackluster. No really prominent marks, but there are a few hairlines and minor contact marks in the fields. Light reddish-gold toning throughout, but it is very pale and subdued. Just a hint of friction on the eyebrow, cheek, and bottom of the crown.

ANOTHER SPECIMEN 1948 50 CENTS



29. **1936, Uncirculated**, very nearly in the Choice category. The coin has full luster, a very sharp strike and absolutely superb electric toning, a blend of russet, reddish-gold and blue-violet near the borders. A beautiful coin in every respect. Very scarce in this high grade; only 38,550 examples of this date were struck. Acquired at face value from T. Roberts, a former RCM employee, in 1951.

30. **1936, Uncirculated**. Attractive light to medium gray and reddish-gold toning, somewhat mottled and blotchy on the reverse. Several tiny edge nicks and abrasions.

31. **1936, Choice Almost Uncirculated**, nearly Mint State. Not a great deal of luster, possibly due to a prior cleaning. Very few contact marks or abrasions, but there are some faint hairlines on both sides. The coin has turned a light gray and gold color.

SPECIMEN 1948 50 CENTS



32. **1948, Very Choice Specimen**. Fully brilliant with virtually no toning other than just a hint of light gold. A few tiny marks, but really very close to the Gem category. An unusual little area that appears to be almost like a scrape across George's nose, lips and tip of his chin towards the first G of GEORGIUS. However, the Pittman Collection has a number of 1948 Specimen 50 Cent pieces and almost all of these have similar scrapes in the same general area which would seem to indicate that perhaps this occurred at the Mint at the time of striking. The reverse is absolutely flawless and "as struck." Obtained from Maurice LaFortune in October 1952 along with many other Specimen sets and singles from this era. JJP paid LaFortune \$220 for this large group which consisted of literally dozens of Specimens. He was given six months to pay, which he did at the rate of \$70 down and \$50 every other month!

As a date, the 1948 is the rarest, lowest mintage issue among all George VI Canadian 50 Cent pieces. For that reason, Specimens of this issue are especially desirable even though they are actually no more rare than Specimens of most other years of the type. As always, the exact Specimen mintage is not known, but a reasonable guess would be on the order of 50-70 pieces.

33. **1948, Very Choice Specimen**. The only thing that keeps this out of the Gem category is a tiny diagonal area of scrape marks across George's ear and a very tiny area of scuffing right near George's chin. Once again, these appear to have been made at the time of striking. The coin shows virtually no toning whatsoever and has full brilliance, deep mirror fields and tremendous luster. Flawless, "as struck" reverse, and outstanding overall appearance, very comparable to the preceding lot. Same source as Lot 32, i.e. former RCM employee M. LaFortune.



34. **1948, Very Choice Uncirculated**, bordering on Gem quality. Superb satiny surfaces and full mint luster under beautiful light to medium multicolored toning that features shades of violet, russet and greenish-gold with a hint of blue in the letters. This is a superb looking coin; very few business strike 1948 50 Cent pieces are this choice. There are just a few very tiny little marks scattered throughout the fields, but nothing of importance. As a date (varieties excluded), this is the premier issue of the type and has been in demand since shortly after it was minted. Only 37,784 pieces were struck, a small mintage by modern Canadian standards.



35. **1948, Choice Uncirculated**. Another. Beautiful light to medium multi-colored toning similar to the preceding. The reverse is flawless with superb reddish-gold, russet, blue and violet toning near the border. The obverse also has beautiful violet and reddish-gold toning, but it does have some light contact marks and abrasions in the fields and on George's face. Full frosty mint luster. A very scarce, low mintage date.

36. **1948, Choice Uncirculated.** A third Mint State example. Full frosty mint luster. The obverse is brilliant with just a trace of coppery colored toning at K-7 near the rim. The reverse is Gem quality and has just a touch of light golden toning.

SILVER DOLLARS

VERY RARE SPECIMEN 1936 SILVER DOLLAR



37. **1936, Specimen.** Very sharply struck with extraordinary detail and the lackluster matte surfaces which are characteristic of the Specimens of this date. Overall, the coin has a light gray and pale golden tone. There are numerous hairlines throughout the fields and across the figure. There is also one tiny contact mark between the canoe and the tree. No other marks or problems with the coin are noted, but it appears that the coin was lacquered and then the hairlines occurred when the lacquer was removed. Obtained from Maurice LaFortune, along with two other 1936 Specimen Dollars, on 10/12/52. Since this was part of a very large purchase (large only in terms of the number of coins in the deal, not in terms of the price which was just \$220), it is impossible to have an exact breakdown of the individual costs. However, a reasonable cost attributed to this coin would have been about \$10.

The 1936 Specimen Dollar of Canada is very rare and popular. Although the Royal Canadian Mint did not keep a record of the number of Specimens struck, it must have been fairly small based on the infrequent offerings of one for sale. At one time, JJP had five pieces in his collection. One was sold, another stolen in 1964 (the one from the LaFortune complete set), and three pieces, including this one, remain. The other two pieces will be sold in October 1998. Although opinions may differ, I estimate that perhaps 20-25 Specimen 1936 Dollars were struck, most of which can still be accounted for today. It is interesting to note, however, that the fabulous Norweb Collection failed to have an example.

38. A pair of scarce date Silver Dollars of George VI including **1938 and 1945**. The 1938 is a nice Uncirculated coin with fairly clean surfaces and pale, albeit somewhat dull, reddish-gold and gray toning. The fields have almost no marks of any significance. The 1945 grades Almost Uncirculated and is fully prooflike with light to moderate bagmarks throughout and just a trace of pale reddish-gold toning at the border. Two pieces.

39. Another pair of scarce Silver Dollars of George VI. The two dates are **1938 and 1945**, both **Uncirculated**. The 1938 is frosty with attractive reddish-gold toning and light to moderate bagmarks throughout, most notably on the truncation of George's neck. The 1945 is prooflike and fully brilliant with light bagmarks and beautiful natural reddish-gold toning restricted almost entirely to the denticles. Two pieces.

cation of George's neck. The 1945 is prooflike and fully brilliant with light bagmarks and beautiful natural reddish-gold toning restricted almost entirely to the denticles. Two pieces.

GEM SPECIMEN 1939 DOLLAR



40. **1939, Gem Specimen.** A magnificent coin with full brilliance and just a hint of light, somewhat cloudy golden toning throughout. A few light hairlines on the obverse in the fields below the truncation of the neck, but otherwise nearly pristine. The reverse, in particular, is flawless. Both obverse and reverse show definite signs of the dies being highly polished as there are many striations in the fields. The obverse is not entirely mirrorlike, but the reverse is. Excellent overall quality for a Specimen 1939 Dollar, even though these often come nice. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune on 10/12/52 as part of a very large purchase of Specimens for \$220. The pro-rated cost of this coin could not have been more than a few dollars.

Struck to commemorate the visit of King George VI and Queen Mary to Canada, the 1939 Commemorative Dollar is fairly common as a business strike; even high quality examples are rather easily obtained. Specimens of this date are the second most common of George VI's reign (after the 1937) and are only moderately rare by Specimen standards; at least several hundred were minted.

A SECOND GEM SPECIMEN 1939 DOLLAR



41. **1939, Gem Specimen.** Fully brilliant without a trace of toning, although the coin appears to have been lightly lacquered. A few hairlines here and there, mostly on the reverse; the obverse is literally flawless. Not quite as mirrorlike on the obverse as it is on the reverse which is fully mirrorlike. Evidence of the die polishing is not quite as prominent on this coin as it was on the preceding. There are a couple of very tiny rim marks on the obverse, but they are not especially detracting. Acquired from Maurice LaFortune in October 1952 as part of a large group of Specimens.

CHOICE SPECIMEN 1945 DOLLAR



42. **1945, Choice Specimen.** Fully brilliant and very lightly lacquered. Just a trace of pale golden toning and some light hairlines here and there, a few on the obverse but most of them on the reverse near the denomination. On the obverse rim above the D in the legend there is an area that appears to have been filed. Filing the rim was not an uncommon practice at the Mint and was probably done to remove an area of high wire rim. (Note: Although filed rims are not often seen on 1945 Specimens, a 1947 Maple Leaf Specimen Dollar with a filed edge is not unusual.) Purchased from Maurice LaFortune at the same time as the preceding lot.

After a five year hiatus from Silver Dollar coinage during World War II, the RCM resumed production in 1945 with a modest run of 38,391 Dollars of the same design as last minted in 1938. Additionally, a small but unknown quantity of Specimens were struck, certainly fewer than 100 pieces and most likely only 50-60 examples based on the frequency with which they are offered today. This number includes an estimated 35-40 in complete Specimen sets. In some cases, high quality business strikes are very similar in appearance to Specimens and can be very deceiving.



43. **1945, Specimen.** Fully brilliant and mirrorlike with just a touch of light golden toning on the reverse. The obverse has a number of faint hairlines throughout the fields and across the face that keep it out of the Choice category. Lightly lacquered. Purchased in 1952 from Maurice LaFortune along with many other Specimens of this era for a total of \$220.

44. A pair of scarce date **Uncirculated** George VI Dollars including **1945 and 1947 Pointed 7**. The 1945 is partially prooflike with full mint luster and very pale yellow-gold toning. The 1947 Pointed 7 is fully brilliant with no toning but with moderate bagmarks throughout, particularly on the obverse. Two pieces.

45. Another pair of scarce date George VI Dollars including **1945 and 1947 Pointed 7**. Both coins are **Uncirculated**. The 1945 is partially prooflike with light to medium reddish-gold toning and some light bagmarks and hairlines in the fields and on the devices. The 1947 Pointed 7 is Uncirculated with prooflike fields and full original mint luster with no toning. The coin has medium bagmarks on the obverse, but a very clean reverse. This is a very flashy coin, much more so than the 1945 included in this lot. Two pieces.

RARE SPECIMEN 1946 DOLLAR



46. **1946, Specimen.** Fully lustrous with just a trace of light golden toning. The coin has been lightly lacquered and now shows a fair number of hairlines, particularly on the obverse, which may be present only in the lacquering and thus could conceivably be removed with judicious removal of the lacquer. There is also a small scratch in the field below George's chin, but the coin has no other mentionable marks or abrasions. Acquired from Maurice LaFortune in late 1952.

Specimen Dollars of 1946 are moderately rare although they do not seem to be quite as rare as those dated 1945. The exact number struck is not known, but it was probably in the range of 60-80 pieces, many, if not most of which, still exist today. As the two examples here in this sale show, however, high quality coins are rare since most are heavily hairlined and often cleaned. Again, deceptive first strike business strikes exist that are very similar in appearance to Specimens.

47. **1946, Specimen.** Lightly lacquered, light golden toning. Moderate hairlines throughout as well as a few tiny scuff marks in the fields. Actually, this coin has many of the characteristics of a Mint State coin as opposed to a Specimen and there may be some differences of opinion as to its striking status. Interested bidders should examine this closely and draw their own conclusions. JJP purchased this coin, along with many of the Specimens offered here, from Maurice LaFortune in 1952.

48. A pair of George VI Dollars including **1947 Blunt 7 and 1948**. The 1947 Blunt 7 grades Choice Uncirculated with a frosty obverse and a prooflike reverse. It has minimal marks and superb reddish-gold toning. The 1948 is also Uncirculated and is mostly prooflike with full mint luster under cloudy, somewhat irregular toning. Two pieces.

49. Another pair of scarce George VI Dollars, both dated 1947. One is the **Maple Leaf variety**, the other the scarce **Pointed 7 variety**. Both coins are **Uncirculated** with full original mint luster and rather minimal contact marks. The Maple Leaf was purchased from F. Howell on 4/28/57. Two pieces.

50. A trio of scarce George VI Dollars including **1947 Pointed 7**, **1947 Maple Leaf** and **1948**. All of the coins are **Uncirculated**. The 1947 Pointed 7 has light russet toning and relatively few marks and is virtually in the Choice category. The Maple Leaf is extraordinarily brilliant with light hairlines and some contact marks on the obverse and no toning. The 1948 is Mint State but has irregular, cloudy reddish-gold toning. Three pieces.

SPECIMEN 1947 MAPLE LEAF DOLLAR



51. **1947 Maple Leaf, Specimen.** Light to moderate hairlines throughout. Edge filed at the Mint. (JJP indicated to me that his sources at the Mint, most likely Maurice LaFortune, said it was common practice to carefully file down the high wire edge that sometimes occurred when striking Specimens. This occurred most often in the case of the Specimen 1947 Maple Leaf Dollar for some unknown reason.) The reverse is significantly finer than the obverse, but it does have hairlines as well. The coin was lightly lacquered and it is possible that some of the hairlines are just restricted to the lacquering and could be removed if the lacquering were removed. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune in October 1952.

Three varieties of Dollars were minted in 1947: Blunt 7, Pointed 7 and Maple Leaf (actually struck in 1948). Among business strikes, the Blunt 7 variety is by far the most common, followed by the Maple Leaf, and finally the Pointed 7. The proper rarity order for Specimens, however, is different. As Specimens, the Blunt 7 variety is the most rare, followed closely by the Pointed 7 which is only slightly less rare. The Maple Leaf variety is the most often seen although it can still reasonably be termed "rare". The exact number of Specimen 1947 Maple Leaf Dollars minted is not known, but I think a reasonable estimate would be in the range of 60-80 pieces.

RARE AND CHOICE 1948 SPECIMEN DOLLAR



52. **1948, Choice Specimen.** A beautiful coin with full brilliance and a touch of golden toning; lightly lacquered surfaces. This coin has a few very light hairlines, mostly on the obverse, but, overall, the coin is superior to the typically encountered Specimen 1948 Dollar. Purchased by JJP for

\$17 sometime in the 1950's, but the actual date and seller were not recorded.

The 1948 is the rarest date of any regular or commemorative issue Canadian Silver Dollar. Only 18,780 pieces were minted for circulation plus an unknown, but undoubtedly small, number of Specimens. In the auction catalogue of the Norweb Collection of Canadian coins, Q. David Bowers notes that a few hundred Specimens were struck, a rather large number by Specimen standards, which included a quantity of "several hundred which were bought by H.E. MacIntosh of Springfield, Massachusetts." If the MacIntosh coins were indeed really Specimens and not just carefully selected, premium quality business strikes, they were certainly widely distributed into non-numismatic hands because a Specimen 1948 Dollar is much more rare than such a "high" mintage would indicate. It is certainly more rare, for example, than the 1937 Mirror Finish or 1939 Dollars which also had Specimen mintages in the range of a few hundred pieces.

53. **1948, Uncirculated.** Light toning, somewhat cloudy and lackluster on the reverse. Fully brilliant on the obverse with reddish-gold throughout the letters. One of the rarest, lowest mintage issues in modern (post World War II) Canadian numismatics. Only 18,780 pieces struck.

54. **1948, Uncirculated.** Another. Very flashy and fully brilliant with mostly prooflike fields and just a touch of light gold toning. Very light contact marks on the reverse, light to moderate ones on the obverse. Scarce and always in demand.

VERY RARE SPECIMEN 1949 DOLLAR

So-Called "Charlton Proof"



55. **1949, Specimen**, very nearly in the Choice category. This is a 1949 Dollar of which there is no question concerning its Specimen status. It is fully brilliant with deep mirror fields on both sides and an incredibly sharp strike. The obverse is solidly in the Choice category with only a few very faint, insignificant hairlines. On the reverse, however, above CANADA, there is some light scuffing, possibly the result of the coin being damaged and mishandled when it was stolen from JJP in 1964 (and later returned, unprotected, in an envelope with other coins). Obtained from the Royal Canadian Mint in the year of issue.

The Charlton Standard Catalogue indicates that there are two distinct levels of Specimen Dollars for 1949. The first is a "Superior Specimen coin on full planchets and super strikes with wide square rims". This quality the catalogue refers to as "Proof". A second, lesser quality is referred to simply as "Specimen" and is valued at a much lower level. This example offered here is the former, i.e. the "Proof" type. In my opinion, this "Proof" type is the only true Specimen of 1949; the lesser quality examples are only high quality prooflike business strikes. Due to this confusion and controversy surrounding the second quality level of 1949 Specimen Dollars, the real rarity of the true Specimen or "Charlton Proof" Dollars of 1949 has been largely unappreciated. A 1949 Specimen

(or as JJP always called them, "Proof") Dollar is a major rarity, more rare, in my opinion, than the Specimens of 1945, 1946, 1947 Maple Leaf, 1948, 1950, 1951 or 1952, and about as rare as the 1947 Blunt 7 and 1947 Pointed 7 Specimen Dollars. Among the George VI Specimen Dollar issues, only the 1938 and 1950 Arnprior are more rare. At most 15-20 "Charlton Proof" 1949 Dollars are known.

56. A pair of superb, stunning, prooflike **Uncirculated** George VI Dollars that are essentially "as struck". One coin is dated 1949, the other 1952 No Water Lines. The 1949 has delicate russet toning and absolutely pristine surfaces; the 1952 is mostly brilliant with just a touch of light golden toning and it also has pristine, flawless surfaces. These two coins are not rare as dates, but the quality of them is unbeatable. Two pieces.
57. A trio of extraordinary, virtually flawless Dollars dated 1949, 1953 and 1954. The 1949 has absolutely magnificent reddish-gold and violet toning and deeply prooflike, pristine surfaces. The 1953 is a Gem Prooflike coin from a 1953 Prooflike set. The 1954 is also a Gem Prooflike coin from a 1954 Prooflike set. It has just a touch of light golden toning. All three coins were obtained by JJP directly from the Royal Canadian Mint in the years of issue. Three pieces.
58. A pair of Dollars, the first dated 1949 which is superb **Uncirculated** with magnificent multicolored toning. The second coin is a 1955 Arnprior in frosty **Choice Uncirculated** condition with medium gold toning highlighted with a touch of violet. Two pieces.
59. Another pair of Dollars. The first is dated 1949 and is **Gem Uncirculated** with magnificent multicolored toning. The second is a 1954 **Prooflike** Dollar with flawless surfaces and lightly mottled toning. Two pieces.

GEM SPECIMEN 1950 DOLLAR



60. **1950, Gem Specimen.** Normal Water Lines. Deep mirror fields with just a trace of roughness "as made" on George's cheek and neck. Beautiful light reddish-gold toning on the reverse and an almost completely brilliant obverse. Obtained directly from the Royal Canadian Mint in the year of issue.

Most known 1950 Specimen Dollars are the Normal Water Lines variety like this one. This is a much more common issue than any of the Specimen Dollars from 1945-1949 and the mintage, although not known exactly, must have numbered at least 200-300 pieces. JJP purchased several dozen pieces, some directly from the Mint in the year of issue, others from T. Roberts and M. LaFortune in 1951 and 1952 respectively, and sold most of them over the next few years to other collectors (cf. Norweb: 479).

PROOF SETS AND MINT SETS

1937 MIRROR SPECIMEN SET

In Original Red Leather Case Of Issue

61. **1937 Specimen set** consisting of six pieces from One Cent to One Dollar. This is the rare mirror finish set as opposed to the more commonly seen matte finish set. It is housed in its original red leather case of issue. All of the silver coins are deeply and uniformly toned in beautiful shades of violet and blue. The 5 Cent piece has light golden toning, the Cent has gold and iridescent toning. The 10 Cents has light obverse and reverse hairlines, but the other coins are all Very Choice to Gem. This is a far above average set of this kind. 1295 sets were struck in 1937, most of them the matte variety which were issued in a flat red cardboard case. Only an estimated 10%-15% were this mirror finish variety. Six pieces.

PARTIAL 1946 SPECIMEN SET



62. **Partial 1946 Specimen set** missing only the 50 Cent piece. All of the coins are lightly lacquered and fully brilliant. The small denomination coins are Very Choice to Gem quality. The Silver Dollar is a Choice Specimen and has some light hairlines which may be in the lacquering and would be removed if the lacquering were removed; it also has some light golden toning. Five pieces.

A small but unknown number of Specimen sets were minted in 1946. Estimates of the number minted vary widely and go as low as 15 sets (Krause & Mishler's Standard Catalogue of World Coins). Most auction cataloguers use this number when describing a 1946 Specimen set, but this mintage does not even closely correlate to the number that are around. A much more realistic estimate of the mintage would be in the range of 50-60 sets with an additional small quantity of most of the individual denominations, including the Dollar.

63. Another partial 1946 Specimen set, this one lacking both the 50 Cent piece and the Silver Dollar. It consists of four pieces from One Cent to 25 Cents. All of the coins are lacquered and fully brilliant; the silver coins have acquired a light golden toning. The Cent is Gem quality and full mint red, the 5 Cent piece is Choice. The 10 Cents has light to moderate hairlines that may be more in the lacquering than on the coin itself. The 25 Cent piece is Choice with a few light hairlines. Four pieces.

64. 1947 Mint set consisting of six pieces from One Cent to One Dollar. The Dollar is the Blunt 7 variety and the 50 Cent piece is the Straight 7 variety. All of the coins grade Uncirculated, some of them Choice, and all have full mint luster and just a trace of light toning. Six pieces.

VERY RARE 1947 SPECIMEN SET WITH POINTED 7 DOLLAR



65. 1947 Specimen set from One Cent to One Dollar complete. The Dollar is the Pointed 7 variety, the 50 Cent piece is the Curved 7 variety. All of the coins are lightly lacquered. The Dollar is the nicest coin of the set and is at least Very Choice, if not a full Gem, with tremendous brilliance and luster and really no lines or marks of any kind. There is, however, an area of die polishing and striations behind the head. The 50 Cent piece is an average quality Specimen, somewhat dull, possibly from a prior cleaning. The 10 Cents and 25 Cents both have some light hairlines. The Cent and 5 Cents are Very Choice with no spots and only a few light lines. However, the 5 Cents does have a huge obverse lint mark. A far above average set, particularly because of the high quality of the all-important Silver Dollar, one of the nicest Specimen 1947 Pointed 7 Dollars I have seen. JJP purchased this set on 10/12/52 from former RCM employee Maurice LaFortune. The set was part of a very large group of Specimen sets and singles for which JJP paid a total of \$220. Six pieces.

Specimen sets in 1947 were issued with Pointed 7 Dollars, Blunt 7 Dollars or Maple Leaf Dollars. There are variations in the 50 Cent pieces as well with Straight 7, Curved 7, Straight 7 with Maple Leaf (supposedly, per Charlton) and Curved 7 with Maple Leaf varieties, all minted for inclusion in the sets. Few "original" sets still exist today (most are assembled) and so some questions are not easily answered. For example, were Specimen sets with Pointed 7 Dollars issued with Straight 7 or Curved 7 50 Cent pieces? Or were both

variations issued? A similar question might be asked for the sets with the Blunt 7 Dollar. And finally, even though the 1947 Curved 7 with Maple Leaf 50 Cent piece is extremely rare as a business strike (the rarest George VI Canadian coin, in fact), and the Straight 7 with Maple Leaf variety is relatively common as a business strike, is it the case that 1947 Maple Leaf Specimen sets were issued *only* with the Curved 7 50 Cents pieces? Charlton's Standard Catalogue indicates not and mentions the existence of Specimens of the Straight 7 with Maple Leaf variety of 50 Cent piece. However, I have not seen one. The Pittman Collection contains five complete or partial Maple Leaf Specimen sets, all with the Curved 7 50 Cent piece. Similarly, Bowers and Merena's sale of the Kissel and Victoria Collections in 1989 had six complete Maple Leaf Specimen sets and four additional Specimen Maple Leaf 50 Cent pieces; again, all 50 Cent pieces were the Curved 7 variety. The subject of 1947 Specimen coins seems to me to be an interesting area for research. Indeed, our knowledge of Canadian Specimen issues is woefully inadequate in general, and it would be a great service to Canadian Numismatics if someone would research the whole subject in depth and publish their findings.

Concerning the 1947 Set offered here with the Pointed 7 Dollar, it is not an exaggeration to say that it is a major rarity in the Canadian series. It is far more rare than the usually seen (but still rare) 1947 Maple Leaf set and also more rare than the famous 1948 set. As always, the exact mintage of such sets is unknown, but it probably could not have been more than 15-20 sets. A similar or perhaps even smaller number of sets with Blunt 7 Dollar were also minted. The Pittman Collection contains one specimen set with a Blunt 7 Dollar that will be auctioned in October 1998 as well as an additional set with a Pointed 7 Dollar.

1947 MAPLE LEAF SPECIMEN SET



66. 1947 Maple Specimen set consisting of the One Cent to One Dollar. The 50 Cent piece is the rare Curved 7 variety. All of the coins have been lightly lacquered. This is an extremely high quality set with all of the coins grading Very Choice to Gem. The 50 Cent piece, the premium coin of the set, is outstanding and grades a full Gem with no more than a couple of very faint hairlines. It is one of the nicest examples of this rare variety in existence. The Silver Dollar is a borderline Gem with extremely flashy surfaces and virtually no marks of any kind other than a few very faint

hairlines in the field in front of the face. The smaller coins are all very, very choice. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune on 10/12/52. Six pieces.

The 1947 Maple Specimen set is undoubtedly the most common set issued from 1945-1949. It is particularly desirable, however, because they (seemingly) all have the Curved 7 50 Cent piece which is all but unobtainable as a high grade business strike. The number of sets minted and issued was probably on the order of 50-60, with a few additional examples of each individual denomination also struck, including Dollars.

ANOTHER 1947 MAPLE LEAF SPECIMEN SET



67. A second Maple Specimen set consisting of the six coins from One Cent to One Dollar. All of the coins have been lightly lacquered. The 50 Cent piece is again the rare Curved 7 variety. This set is not nearly as choice as the preceding. The Dollar is the least nice of the set and appears as though it may have been cleaned. It now has dull reddish-brown toning on the obverse. The obverse rim has been lightly filed as is sometimes the case on Specimen 1947 Maple Leaf Dollars; also, the surfaces of the coin have many light hairlines. The all-important 50

Cent piece is Choice, but it does have some light hairlines on the obverse and does not match the quality of the one in the preceding lot. The other coins are all fairly nice, most of them Choice, although the 25 Cents does have some light hairlines in the field in front of the face. Overall, a fairly nice set, but probably not an original set because the Silver Dollar does not seem to belong with the others and possibly was added later. Purchased from M. LaFortune on 10/12/52. Six pieces.

1948 SPECIMEN SET



68. **1948 Specimen set** consisting of six coins from One Cent to One Dollar. This is an above average quality set with all the coins Choice or better except for the 50 Cents which has light to moderate hairlines. The coins have all been lightly lacquered. The Silver Dollar has a small but noticeable edge cut on the reverse rim below the second L in DOLLAR, but it is otherwise quite choice with only a few light hairlines. The other coins are all fully brilliant and have just a very few hairlines. A distinctly above average set. JJP acquired this set from Maurice LaFortune, a former Royal Canadian

Mint employee, in October 1952 along with many other Specimen sets and singles. The price paid for the entire group was only \$220. Six pieces.

Krause and Mishler's Standard Catalogue of World Coins estimates a mintage of 30 Specimen sets in 1948. Based on the number of sets around, as well as the 1948's apparent rarity in relation to other Specimen sets of the era, that number seems about right. The 1948 set is certainly more rare than the 1945, 1946 or 1947 Maple Leaf sets but does not seem to be nearly as rare as the 1947 Pointed 7, 1947 Blunt 7 or 1949 sets.

1949 SPECIMEN SET



69. **1949 Specimen set** consisting of six coins from One Cent to One Dollar. The Dollar is the quality that the Charlton reference calls "Proof" as opposed to "Specimen", which in turn is supposedly different from "Prooflike". Personally, I don't believe in this distinction and feel that for a 1949 Dollar to qualify as a Specimen it must look like the coin here. All others are just business strikes, prooflike though they may be. All of the coins in this set have light to moderate lacquering and just a touch of light golden toning, although they are mostly brilliant. The Silver Dollar and 50 Cents have some light hairlines and grade Choice, the smaller coins are Very Choice to Gem. A very nice and above average set. Purchased from M. LaFortune on 10/12/52 as part of a very large group of Specimens. Six pieces.

The 1949 Specimen set with the "Charlton Proof" Dollar is an

extremely rare set, roughly on a par with the 1947 sets containing the Pointed 7 or Blunt 7 Dollars. It is much more rare than the sets of 1945, 1946, 1947 Maple Leaf or 1948. Approximately 15-20 sets were struck (JJP's estimate, Krause & Mishler concur) and issued in red leather cases. Substantial additional quantities were struck of each of the individual denominations (perhaps hundreds of the Cent and 5 Cents and somewhat smaller numbers of the 10, 25 and 50 Cent pieces) except for the Dollar of which only a few, if any, additional pieces were minted. However, Dollars of an extremely different quality could be purchased individually in single coin, red cases directly from the Mint for \$2 Canadian in quantities of five or more coins, \$2.50 for a single coin. These Dollars were not "Charlton Proofs" but rather were handpicked, premium quality prooflike examples from the regular run of business strikes. Hundreds of these were sold by the Mint and JJP purchased more than 20 such pieces. (These are the coins now regularly sold as "Specimens".) The true Specimens (or "Proofs" as JJP called them) are almost never available. Over the years JJP sold off most of his "Specimen" 1949 Dollars (cf. Norweb: 477), but he always kept his "Proofs" of 1949 which he greatly prized as rarities.

A SECOND 1949 SPECIMEN SET



70. **1949 Specimen** set from One Cent to One Dollar. All of the coins are lightly lacquered and most grade Very Choice or Gem Specimen. The Dollar is a true Specimen (see comment under Lot 69) with deep mirror fields and a razor sharp strike. It does not look anything like the typical Prooflike Uncirculated coin that is usually passed off as a Specimen. This Dollar has some light hairlines and a trace

of toning and falls just short of the Choice category. The 50 Cent piece is a Gem, the 25 Cents and the 10 Cents are Very Choice Specimens. The two small denominations are Gems. This is an extremely rare set with only 15-20 sets struck containing the "Charlton Proof" Dollar. Obtained 10/12/52 from former Royal Canadian Mint employee Maurice LaFortune. Six pieces.

1950 SPECIMEN SET



71. **1950 Specimen** set complete from One Cent to One Dollar. The Silver Dollar is the Normal Water Lines variety. This is an extraordinary set with all of the coins Very Choice or Gem quality. They all have been lightly lacquered. The Silver Dollar is absolutely flawless and "as struck" with just a trace of light toning that it has acquired over the years. Its surfaces are totally without hairlines or flaws of any kind. The other silver coins are also very nice, although they do show a few hairlines here and there. The Cent has a few lines in the lacquering but is otherwise Very Choice. The 25 Cent piece has a few light hairlines by the second S of GEORGIUS. The 10 Cents and the 5 Cents are

basically Gems. One of many Specimen (then called "Proof") Sets purchased by JJP from Maurice LaFortune on 10/12/52. Six pieces.

Krause and Mishler's Standard Catalogue of World Coins indicates a mintage of 12 Specimen sets in 1950 and it is this number that auction cataloguers generally use when describing such a set. The 1950 set, however, is not even remotely as rare as that mintage figure would imply. JJP had at least 15-20 sets at one time before he proceeded to sell or trade many of them. It is possible that only 12 sets were issued in cases but several hundred Specimens of each individual denomination were also minted so many "assembled" sets also exist. Of course, it is not possible today to tell an "original" set from an "assembled" set, particularly one assembled within a few years of the issue date.

1950 SPECIMEN SET

Contains The Extremely Rare "Arnprior" Dollar



72. **1950 Specimen set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar. This set contains the "Arnprior" Dollar, which is considerably more rare than the Normal Water Lines variety Dollar contained in the preceding lot. All of the coins have been lightly lacquered and are Very Choice or Gem quality. The "Arnprior" Dollar is superb and basically flawless with no hairlines, marks or any problems whatsoever. The smaller denominations are also very, very choice, if not Gem. The 25 Cents has a few light marks from the bridge of George's nose to the S of GEORGIUS, but these are in exactly the same position as they are on some other Specimen 1950 25 Cent pieces I have seen, and so it is possible that they may have occurred at the Mint immediately after striking. The Cent is heavily lacquered, but basically without flaw. This is an exceptional quality set just like the preceding, but

what really sets it apart is the fact that it has the extremely rare (in Specimen) "Arnprior" Dollar. Obtained from Maurice LaFortune on 10/12/52. Six pieces.

Nearly all 1950 Specimen sets, original or assembled, contain the Silver Dollar with Normal Water Lines (see preceding lot). A very few exist, however, which contain the extremely rare Specimen "Arnprior" Dollar. It is not known whether any 1950 "Arnprior" sets were actually sold as sets or if they were inadvertently created by combining a Specimen "Arnprior" Dollar with Specimens of the other denominations to form an assembled set. (Of course, the "Arnprior" nomenclature does not even really apply until the 1955 issue. Furthermore, these minor Dollar varieties were not recognized or appreciated until somewhat later. Therefore, anyone assembling a 1950 "Arnprior" set in the early 1950's did so unknowingly.) This set is more rare than any of the preceding (only the 1938 set, not in the Pittman Collection, is more rare) since probably only 10-12 Specimen "Arnprior" Dollars are known. Two sets, including this one, are in the Pittman Collection.

1951 SPECIMEN SET WITH RARE HIGH RELIEF 5 CENTS



73. **1951 Specimen set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar including both the regular issue and the commemorative 5 Cent pieces. The regular issue Beaver 5 Cents is the rare High Relief variety. The 25 Cents is the scarce High Relief variety as well. All of these coins are of exceptional overall quality and grade Gem Specimen with the exception of the regular 5 Cents which is Very Choice. All of the coins are lightly lacquered and have only a few hairlines at most. The Dollar is a gorgeous Gem with full brilliance and just a few faint hairlines, nothing at all significant. Like all Specimen Dollars of 1951, it is the Normal Water Lines variety. The other silver coins are all Gem quality with the 50 Cent piece having just a touch of very light golden toning. The Cent has some purple toning, probably mostly in the lacquering. Obtained from former Mint employee Maurice LaFortune

in October 1952. Seven pieces.

As was the case with the 1950 Specimen set, it is often claimed that only 12 1951 Specimen sets were issued. This is very misleading since 1951 Specimen sets are not even close to being as rare as that small number would indicate. (JJP at one time had about that many himself.) Although it may or may not be the case that only 12 sets were formally issued as sets, it is certainly true that at least 150, perhaps even several hundred, Specimens of all of the individual denominations, including the Dollar, were also struck. Therefore, it was possible for a considerable number of "sets" to have been assembled from the individual pieces. In my experience, 1951 sets are a little more rare than those of 1950, but the difference is not great. However, most 1951 Specimen sets have the common Low Relief Beaver 5 Cent piece and not the rare High Relief version contained in the three sets offered here. Sets such as these are very rare and desirable.

A SECOND 1951 SPECIMEN SET WITH HIGH RELIEF 5 CENTS



74. **1951 Specimen set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar with both 5 Cent pieces, including the rare High Relief regular issue. The 25 Cent piece is also the High Relief variety. All of these coins are lightly lacquered and are of very high quality with none of the coins grading less than Very Choice and the majority of them grading Gem, including the Cent, commemorative 5 Cents, 10 Cents, 25 Cents, and 50 Cents. The Dollar has Normal Water Lines and is Very

Choice with no more than a few hairlines and full brilliance. The High Relief 5 Cent piece is also Very Choice with one faint hairline across the face and some light brushing as it came from the Mint. Only 150-200 1951 Specimen "sets" could possibly exist, the large majority of them having a Low Relief Nickel, not the rare High Relief variety included here. Purchased from M. LaFortune on 10/12/52. Seven pieces.

A THIRD 1951 SPECIMEN SET WITH HIGH RELIEF 5 CENTS



75. Another **1951 Specimen set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar and containing both the regular issue and commemorative 5 Cent pieces. The regular issue 5 Cents is the rare High Relief variety, as is the 25 Cent piece. All of the coins have light to medium lacquering and are fully brilliant with just a trace of light toning. The Silver Dollar

has Normal Water Lines and is a borderline Gem; the High Relief 5 Cents is Choice with some light brush lines, and the other coins are all Gem quality. As is the case with all the Specimen sets from 1947-1951 offered here, this set was purchased by JJP from M. LaFortune on 10/12/52. Seven pieces.

76. **1951 Mint set** from One Cent to Silver Dollar. The set contains both the regular issue and commemorative 5 Cent pieces. The regular issue or Beaver 5 Cents is the rare High Relief variety, as is the 25 Cents. All of the coins are Choice Uncirculated or better including the High Relief 5 Cents, although it does have a few hairlines and some brushing on the obverse. The Silver Dollar is a fully prooflike Gem with beautiful light toning and is the Normal Water Lines variety. Seven pieces.

This and the four 1951 Mint sets which follow are assembled (by JJP) sets. The rare High Relief 5 Cent pieces are from the original roll JJP obtained in the summer of 1951 from T. Roberts, a former RCM employee.

77. Another **1951 Mint set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar, including both the commemorative and the regular issue 5 Cent pieces, the latter the rare High Relief variety. The 25 Cent piece is Low Relief. All of the coins grade Choice Uncirculated or better with the exception of the High Relief 5 Cents which has a couple of prominent obverse scratches. The Silver Dollar is the Normal Water Lines variety and has light, somewhat cloudy golden toning. Seven pieces.

78. A third **1951 Mint set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar and containing both 5 Cent pieces, including the rare High Relief variety of the regular issue. The Silver Dollar is the Normal Water Lines variety and is an extraordinary coin grading Gem Uncirculated; indeed it is very nearly "as

struck" with superb luster and absolutely pristine, flawless surfaces. The other coins are all Uncirculated, several of them laying claims to Choice. The High Relief 5 Cent piece is a prooflike Mint State coin with several obverse scratches. Seven pieces.

79. Another **1951 Mint set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar consisting of both 5 Cent pieces including the rare High Relief regular issue. The 25 Cents is also High Relief. All of the coins are Uncirculated and have traces of light golden toning. Most of the coins grade Choice with the exception of the High Relief 5 Cents which has a scratch in the field in front of the face. The Dollar is a Gem prooflike coin and is the Normal Water Lines variety. Seven pieces.

80. A fifth and final **1951 Mint set** consisting of seven coins from One Cent to Silver Dollar including both 5 Cent pieces. The regular issue 5 Cents is the rare High Relief variety, the 25 Cents is the Low Relief. All of the coins grade Uncirculated, most of them Choice, and the Dollar is a flawless, superb Gem prooflike Normal Water Lines coin that could not be improved upon. It is literally "as struck" except for the addition of some very delicate golden toning. The rare High Relief 5 Cents is Uncirculated and prooflike, but it does have a couple of prominent obverse scratches. The other coins have light golden toning. Seven pieces.

1952 SPECIMEN SET



81. **1952 Specimen set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar. The Silver Dollar is the Normal Water Lines variety, the 25 Cents is the Low Relief variety. All of the coins are lightly lacquered. The four small denominations all have light hairlines, and the 5 Cents has a trace of rust, but the 50 Cents and Dollar are virtually perfect Gems with no hairlines, marks, spots, or problems of any kind. It is doubtful whether a finer Specimen 50 Cents or Specimen Dollar of this date exist; these are just exceptional coins. Acquired by JJP directly from the Royal Canadian Mint in the year of issue. Six pieces.

According to the Krause and Mishler Standard Catalogue of World Coins (and thus most auction cataloguers), 2,317 Specimen sets were struck in 1952 compared to only 12 each of 1950 and 1951. If true, this would make the 1950 and 1951 sets nearly 200 times as rare

as the 1952. Clearly, that is not the case at all; the three sets are actually rather similar in terms of overall rarity although, in my opinion, the 1952 set is a little more rare than the 1951 which, in turn, is a bit more rare than the 1950. The large 2,317 figure undoubtedly consists mainly of the sets of handpicked business strikes which were packaged and sold to collectors at a modest premium. (JJP had many such sets; see Lots 88 and 89.) True Specimen sets probably number a couple hundred at most, the majority assembled from Specimens of the individual denominations which were available from the Mint. A small quantity of "original" sets were also issued in presentation cases but, without their cases, they are indistinguishable from the assembled sets. Note: Both the Charlton catalogue and Krause and Mishler list a 1952 No Water Lines Dollar in Specimen, but I have never seen such a coin. The No Water Lines Dollars I have seen which were claimed to be Specimens were instead superb quality Prooflike coins. Does a No Water Lines Specimen Dollar really exist?

82. **Partial 1952 Specimen set** from One Cent to 50 Cents, missing the Silver Dollar. The 25 Cents is the Low Relief variety. All the coins are lightly lacquered and have light hairlines. The 5 Cents also has considerable rust near the rim and uniformly around the edge. The hairlines are enough to keep most of the coins out of the Choice category. Five pieces.

83. **1952 Mint set** from One Cent to Silver Dollar. The Dollar is the No Water Lines variety and the 25 Cents is Low Relief. Coins grade from minimal Uncirculated to Gem, the finest coin being the Silver Dollar which is basically a perfect Gem Uncirculated with full prooflike fields. The 50 Cent piece has irregular, cloudy greenish-gold obverse toning; the other coins have more delicate, lighter toning. Six pieces.

84. Another **1952 Mint set** from One Cent to Silver Dollar. The Silver Dollar is the No Water Lines variety. The 25 Cent piece is Low Relief. Grades range from Uncirculated to Gem Uncirculated with, once again, the finest coin being the most valuable, namely the silver Dollar. It is a flawless Gem prooflike Uncirculated coin with slightly cloudy golden toning on the obverse and a hint of gold on the reverse. Six pieces.

85. A third **1952 Mint set** complete from One Cent to Silver Dollar. The Silver Dollar is the No Water Lines variety, the 25 Cents is the Low Relief variety. All these coins are Uncirculated and the Silver Dollar is a Gem with full prooflike fields and no marks. It also has beautiful mottled toning, reddish-violet at the border, paler gold in the center. The 50 Cent piece has filmy greenish-gold obverse toning. The 10 Cent piece also has cloudy yellow toning. Six pieces.

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86. **1953 Specimen set** consisting of One Cent to Silver Dollar. The coins are all the Shoulder Fold variety and the 50 Cents has a Large Date. The Dollar has a few very faint "scuffs" mostly affecting the toning only and not the actual surface of the coin. Purchased by JJP directly from the Mint in 1953. All of the coins are fully brilliant and lightly lacquered. Six pieces.

Specimen sets of this year are not quite as rare as those of the preceding years from 1945-1952. Also, there are a number of Prooflike sets

known which are almost indistinguishable (especially in the case of the Dollar) from the Specimen sets. A few (15-20?) Specimen sets were issued in presentation cases, but most sets were sold without cases or were assembled later since Specimens of all the individual denominations were available singly. The Specimen mintages of all the denominations were probably in the 300-500 range with perhaps a few more of the Dollars. Note: The No Shoulder Fold Specimens of the year (not in the Pittman Collection) are more rare than the Shoulder Fold version offered here. Probably no more than 50-75 such sets were minted.

87. **A partial 1953 Specimen set** from One Cent to Silver Dollar, missing only the 5 Cent piece which was apparently stolen in the 1964 robbery of the Pittman home. The coins are all the Shoulder Fold variety and the 50 Cents has a Large Date. Similar in overall quality to the preceding although the Dollar does have a few more hairlines. Acquired by JJP directly from the Royal Canadian Mint in 1953. Six pieces.

88. **A group of five 1952 original Mint sets** obtained directly from the Mint by JJP in 1952 for \$2.50 per set. All of the sets are in their original white cardboard packaging with cellophane over it. The sets consist of six coins from One Cent to Silver Dollar with all of the Dollars the Normal Water Lines variety. The 25 Cent pieces are all Low Relief. The coins range from Uncirculated to Choice Uncirculated and most of the coins have some light natural toning. Five sets.

89. Identical to the preceding, that is, **five original 1952 Mint sets** in their original white cardboard packaging. Similar descriptions and quality to the preceding, i.e. Uncirculated to Choice Uncirculated, some of the coins with light toning. The Silver Dollars are the Normal Water Lines variety and the 25 Cent pieces in all of these sets are the Low Relief variety. Obtained directly from the Mint in 1952 at a cost of \$2.50 per set. Five sets.

90. **Three Prooflike sets, two dated 1954, one dated 1955.** Each set contains six coins from One Cent to One Dollar. The 1955 Dollar is an Arnprior. The 1954 Cents have the Shoulder Fold obverse. These sets are all in their original mint packaging which consists of a piece of white cardboard with holes punched so that the coins are visible from both sides. The coins and cardboard are covered with cellophane. All of the coins are basically "as struck" and "as issued" with the exception of the 1955 Arnprior Dollar

which has a small scuff on Elizabeth's cheek and into the field. Three sets, obtained by JJP directly from the Mint.

91. **Two Prooflike sets** in the original packaging as issued by the Royal Canadian Mint. **One set is dated 1954, the other 1955** with the Arnprior Dollar. The 1954 Cent has the Shoulder Fold obverse. All of these coins are basically "as struck" and "as issued" and have no marks or flaws or toning of any kind. These are superb sets. Two sets, purchased directly from the Mint.

92. Similar to preceding, that is, two Prooflike sets as issued by the Mint. One is a **1954 Prooflike set** in the white cardboard, and the other is a **1955 Prooflike set** with the Dollar having the Arnprior reverse. The 1954 Cent has the Shoulder Fold obverse. Several of the coins have light toning, and all of the coins are "as struck" and "as issued". Both sets are of superb overall quality. Two sets, obtained directly from the Mint.

93. Another pair of **1954 and 1955 Prooflike sets** in the original packaging as obtained by JJP directly from the Mint in the respective years of issue. These are in white cardboard covered by cellophane. The 1955 Dollar is the Arnprior variety. The 1954 Cent is the Shoulder Fold variety. Several of the coins have light toning, but the coins are basically "as issued" and "as struck". Two sets.

94. **1970 V.I.P. Specimen Presentation set** in the original black case and box. This set consists of six coins: One Cent, 5 Cents, 10 Cents, 25 Cents, 50 Cents and One Dollar. The coins are Very Choice to Gem quality although several have tiny spots. According to Haxby & Willey's *Coins of Canada*, only 100 of these sets were issued. JJP purchased 20 sets from the Mint at \$13 each and later sold most of them to other collectors. Seven sets remain in the Pittman collection, three of which are offered here. Six pieces.

95. Another 1970 V.I.P. Specimen Presentation set in the original black leather case and box. The set consists of six coins from One Cent to One Dollar. All of the coins are Very Choice or Gem. Six pieces.

96. A third 1970 V.I.P. Specimen Presentation set in the original case. There is no box with the case. The coins are Choice to Gem with the Cent having a number of spots. Six pieces.

ORIGINAL ROLLS OF COINS

ORIGINAL ROLL OF 1920 SMALL CENTS



97. An original roll of 1920 Small Cents consisting of 50 pieces. Grades range from **Uncirculated** to **Choice Uncirculated** or better. Some of the coins have small spots, but all of them retain all or most of their original mint red color. All of the coins have light to moderate contact marks. There are many very high quality original coins in this roll, some

even close to Gem quality. Acquired 5/3/61 for \$110 along with two other rolls at the same price. The seller was R.L. Low of Hamilton, Ontario. JJP originally bought 6 rolls at \$100 each, but returned three and had to pay a slightly higher price per roll for those he kept. 50 pieces.



98. An original roll of 1936 Cents consisting of 50 pieces. Grades range from **Uncirculated** to **Choice Uncirculated** or better. Almost every coin in this roll has all of its full original mint red color and luster. Some of the coins also have minor spots. 50 pieces.

JJP acquired this roll, and all of the original rolls of 1936 Cents that follow, at face value from T. Roberts of Ottawa in 1951. JJP scrutinized them carefully in hopes of finding a Mint State business strike 1936 Dot Cent, his favorite coin, but, of course, he never did.

99. An original roll of **Uncirculated 1936 Cents**, similar to preceding. 50 pieces.

100. An original roll of **Uncirculated 1936 Cents**, similar to preceding. 50 pieces.

101. An original roll of **Uncirculated 1936 Cents**, similar to preceding. 50 pieces.

102. An original roll of **Uncirculated 1936 Cents**, similar to preceding. 50 pieces.

103. An original roll of **Uncirculated 1936 Cents**, similar to preceding. 50 pieces.

104. An original roll of **Uncirculated 1936 Cents**, similar to preceding. 50 pieces.

105. An original roll of **1954 5 Cent pieces**. The coins grade from **Uncirculated** to **Choice Uncirculated** or better and all have full original mint luster. 40 pieces.

106. Another original roll of **1954 5 Cent pieces**. All of the coins grade from **Uncirculated** to **Choice Uncirculated** and have full original mint luster. 40 pieces.

COINS OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. COLONIAL COINS



107. **1662 Massachusetts Oak Tree Twopence, Noe 30.** 10.8 grains. Very Fine. Medium gray and gold toning. Slightly wavy planchet but no real defects. Obverse legend partially off the flan to the bottom. The reverse is well centered. Notable as the only Massachusetts silver tree issue to have a date other than 1652. Purchased as Lot 259 from George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45, for \$14.



108. **1652 Massachusetts Pine Tree Threepence, Noe 36.** 17.8 grains. This coin grades Very Good to Fine and has medium gray and gold toning with a touch of blue. Weak in the area between D and N. Very weak at places on the border of the reverse. Some old digs and scratches. Purchased as Lot 566 from the 1947 ANA Convention sale in Buffalo, New York, for \$20.



109. **1652 Massachusetts Pine Tree Sixpence, Noe 33.** 28.3 grains. Very Good. Light to medium gray and gold color. Slightly wavy planchet as usual. Date, value and tree are very sharp, but the coin is struck slightly off center with portions of the legend only partially on the flan. Somewhat lighter weight than most specimens. JJP paid \$14 for this coin as Lot 262 of George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45.



110. **1652 Massachusetts Pine Tree Shilling, Small Planchet, Noe 17.** 69.6 grains. Fine to Very Fine. Medium gray and gold toning with a few blue highlights; fairly well struck and well centered with all the letters entirely on the flan. Acquired as Lot 261 from George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45, for \$22.



111. **1652 Massachusetts Pine Tree Shilling, Large Planchet, Noe 8.** 70.5 grains. Very Fine. Medium gray and gold toning. Some of the letters only partially on the flan. Large diebreak at G and L on the obverse legend. Slightly irregular planchet as usual, but really quite nice for this issue. Purchased as Lot 260 from George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45, for \$30.

112. **Undated (1670-1675) St. Patrick "Farthing", Breen 212.** 85.5 grains. Fine to Very Fine. Medium chocolate brown color with considerable porosity and irregularity around the rim. JJP paid \$4.50 for this piece at George Bauer's sale XVII, 12/15/45.

113. **Undated (1688) James II Plantation Token, Farthing or 1/24 Real, Breen 77.** 144.3 grains. Very Good. Struck in tin. Considerable corrosion on both sides, particularly near the rim. JJP paid \$5.35 for this coin as Lot 265 of George Bauer's sale XVII of 12/15/45.

114. **1733 Rose Americana Twopence, a copy struck in brass, Crosby Plate IV, Number 17.** Almost Uncirculated, prooflike surfaces, plain edge. Light toning, a few minor spots. JJP paid \$3 for this piece but has left no record as to the seller or date of the transaction.



115. **1773 Virginia Half Penny, Period after GEORGIUS, Breen 180.** 113.0 grains. Choice Uncirculated. Nearly full mint red color, just a few areas of faded brown. A couple of tiny spots, nothing significant. JJP purchased this coin for \$1.25 as Lot 195 from George Bauer's sale XVI, 10/13/45.

**NOVA EBORAC
SMALL HEAD COPPER**



116. 1787 Nova Eborac (New York) Copper, Small Head, Star over head, Breen 988. 132.4 grains. Good, with the details barely visible. Struck slightly off-center; dark and considerably porous. Old bruise in field between chin and A in EBORAC. Very rare, only 8-10 pieces known. Purchased from Stack's September 1988 sale, Lot 1229, for \$1,760.



117. 1787 Fugio Cent, New Haven Restrike, Struck in silver, Breen 1320. 202.6 grains. Almost Uncirculated. Warm, glossy medium blue-gray and gold toning. Well struck, perfectly centered, considerable die rust. No scratches, nicks or impairments of any kind, and really virtually Mint State. Purchased as Lot 1200 from Barney Bluestone's 100th sale, 2/28/48, for \$23.



118. 1789 Mott Token, Thick Planchet, Breen 1020. 165.5 grains. Very Fine. Plain edge. Medium to dark brown color, considerable verdigris in and around letters and devices. Some corrosion on the surface of the coin, possibly due to being buried at one time. JJP paid \$2.50 for this piece, date of purchase and seller not known.

**ORIGINAL 1796
CASTORLAND MEDAL
Struck In Silver**



119. 1796 Castorland Medal or Jeton, often referred to as a "Half Dollar" because of its size. Struck in silver, Breen 1058. 241.1 grains. Almost Uncirculated. Thick planchet. Well struck and centered. Fully prooflike fields, sometimes referred to in the past as a "Proof"; in fact, it was as a "Proof" that JJP purchased this piece. It has beautiful medium gray, violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. There is one long scratch running from the C in FRANCO across the field to the figure's upper lip and onto her cheek. The edge is reeded and there are no diebreaks or rust at the sap bucket. (Specimens without a trace of rust or die breaks are notably rare.) Purchased from James Kelly's 1949 CSNS auction as Lot 776 for \$9.

This is one of the most popular and beautiful of all U.S. Colonial issues and one of the relatively few struck in silver. Minted at the Paris Mint for use in upstate New York, the dies were engraved by Jean DuVivier. After an original mintage in 1796 of an unknown, but certainly small quantity, the Paris Mint continued to restrike this issue in silver, gold and copper. At first, the original dies were utilized; later, new copy dies were produced and used. Today, originals such as this piece are very rare, and this lovely, high grade example is certainly in the Condition Census as one of the finest known.

120. A pair of restrikes of the Castorland Medal, one struck in copper, the other in gold. The copper restrike is stamped "CUIVRE" on the plain edge with a cornucopia to the left of the C. The fields are brilliant Proof and have light toning; this is undoubtedly a restrike of the late 19th century from new dies. The gold restrike is a modern copy and it has some light scuffs and abrasions in the fields. The copper example has some light verdigris spots, but is really quite choice. JJP purchased the copper piece as Lot 1070 from Barney Bluestone's 100th sale for \$3.15. Two pieces.

EXTREMELY RARE 1796 MYDDELTON TOKEN IN COPPER

One Of Only 8-10 Examples Known



121. 1796 Myddelton Token, Struck in copper, Breen 1074. 159.4 grains. Plain edge. Very Choice Proof, if not a full Gem. Deep chocolate brown toning with beautiful light iridescent blue, violet and gold highlights. The surface is very mirrorlike and the edge is sharp, square and brilliant. There is just a very slight natural haze to the surfaces and it is obvious that this coin has never been cleaned or tampered with. It is at least the equal of any of the few known specimens, possibly even the finest. Copper examples are even more rare than their silver counterparts (more than twice as rare, in fact) and only 8-10 pieces are known. Purchased in March 1954 in England from A.H. Baldwin & Son for the equivalent of approximately \$52.

Sylvester S. Crosby, in his landmark work *The Early Coins of America*, wrote that, "In beauty of design and execution, the (Myddelton) tokens are unsurpassed by any piece issued for American circulation." The pieces, struck in both silver and copper at Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint, were designed and engraved by Conrad Küchler. They were minted for Philip Parry Price Myddelton for use by the hundreds of farmers, workers and craftsmen that Myddelton recruited to settle his lands in Kentucky. The venture failed, however, and Myddelton was jailed for, "Enticing artificers to emigrate to the United States." The Crown was also less than thrilled with the design of these tokens, interpreting Britannia's downcast countenance as representing England's defeat by the Colonies in the American Revolutionary War.

U.S. HALF CENTS

ATTRACTIVE 1793 HALF CENT



HIGH GRADE 1794 HALF CENT



122. 1793, Breen-3, Cohen-3, Gilbert-1. Rarity-3. Very Fine. Well struck, evenly centered. Medium chocolate brown color; some areas of green verdigris but very attractive overall. Slightly weak at the right obverse border but sharp elsewhere. The verdigris is quite pronounced in the reverse wreath and legends and also at the date. Very scarce and desirable in all grades. Purchased from R.L. Low of Hamilton, Ontario, on 5/11/55 for \$60.

123. 1794, Small Edge Letters, B-2b, C-2a, G-5. Rarity-2. Choice Very Fine, if not Extremely Fine. Planchet clip behind Liberty's cap. Clash marks between the chin and throat and behind Liberty's hair above the cap. Medium brown color, sharp strike, just a trace of verdigris. Purchased in England from A.H. Baldwin & Son, 3/24/54, for \$24.



124. 1795, Lettered Edge, Punctuated Date, B-2a, C-2a, G-3. Rarity-3. Very Fine. Sharply struck and perfectly centered with beautiful medium tan color. Just the barest hint of verdigris around some of the devices and near the rim, but the fields are really quite clean. Somewhat softly struck in the center at HALF CENT but very sharp elsewhere. Purchased from French's 1960 MANA sale, Oct. 28-29, 1960, Lot 1312, where it realized \$120 on an estimate of \$100.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1800 HALF CENT



127. 1800, B-1b, C-1, G-1. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Very sharply struck, perfectly centered. Beautiful medium brownish-tan color with just a hint of light greenish-blue toning. Purchased from the Abe Kosoff sale of the Williams Collection, 11/15/50, Lot 692, for \$7.50.

In the late 1800's, this date was considered rare in Mint State, but early in this century, two hoards of uncirculated pieces were discovered which reduced the 1800 Half Cent to one of the most common issues of the type.

RARE 1796 WITH POLE HALF CENT



125. 1796, With Pole, Plain Edge, B-2a, C-2, G-1. High Rarity-4. Barely Good. Digs from lower part of bust across 9 to the rim and also on the upper reverse near OF. All of the legend is visible although some of AMERICA is very faint. Deep brown color, well centered. Several file marks or test cuts on the rim below the date. One of the rarest and most desirable of all U.S. copper issues. An estimated 75-100 pieces are known in all grades. This is from the same 1960 MANA sale as the preceding lot where it was Lot 1316 and realized \$310 on an estimate of \$200.



126. 1797, Plain Edge, 1 above 1, B-1c, G-4. Rarity-2. Very Fine. Struck over a cut-down Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. Lovely medium tan color with some porosity and traces of verdigris, especially at the lower left reverse. Well struck and nicely centered. A very attractive specimen with a considerable amount of the original Cent design still visible. Purchased at French's 1960 MANA sale as Lot 1322 where it realized \$77.50 on an estimate of \$75.

RARE 1802/0 HALF CENT

128. 1802/0, Second Reverse, B-2, C-2, G-1. Rarity-3. Fine. Dark and porous with iridescent toning as a result of probably having been cleaned. Long dig across the bottom hair curl and 1 of the date. More attractive than the description makes it sound. A scarce issue that is seldom available much nicer than this. Purchased 2/14/59 from a French's sale, Lot 1407, where it realized \$80 on an estimate of \$85.

129. 1803, B-3, C-3, G-3. Rarity-1. Very Fine. Medium brown color with some blue, gold and green iridescence. Noticeable scratches across the neck and face as well as a few old scratches within the wreath on the reverse. Die bulge under 18 of the date. Sharply struck and well centered. Purchased 4/29/55 at the CSNS Convention for \$3.50 from a J. Sary.



130. 1804, Crosslet 4, Stemless, B-11, C-12, G-3. Rarity-2.

Uncirculated. This coin would grade Choice if it had a little more luster, but the surfaces are somewhat dull even though they are very clean and unmarked. Very sharply struck and well centered; light greenish toning (probably from improper storage over the years) with beautiful iridescent violet, blue-green and gold on the reverse. Purchased from M.R. Brown in August 1953 for \$8.



131. 1805, Medium 5, Stemless, B-1, C-1, G-1. Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated.

Uncirculated. Actually, this coin is quite close to full Mint State, but it is softly struck on the hair and shoulder giving it the impression of having more wear than it really does. Beautiful medium tan color with some violet and reddish-gold iridescence, most noticeable on the reverse. Recutting at the top of the 5 in the date.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1806 HALF CENT



132. 1806, Large 6, Stems, B-4, C-4, G-3. Rarity-1. Choice

Uncirculated. Die state 1, rare. Full blazing original mint red color with just a few tiny spots, the most prominent of which is at the right obverse rim at K-4. Noticeable repunching on the outer left curve of the 6. Undoubtedly from the hoard discovered by S.H. and H. Chapman around 1906. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co. on 9/15/47 for \$5.

133. A group of five circulated Half Cents including 1807, B-1;

1809, B-6; 1829, B-1; 1833, B-1; and 1851, B-1. Grades range from **Fine** to **Very Fine**. The 1829 was cleaned a long time ago, the others have medium to dark brown toning. Five pieces.



134. 1808, Normal Date, B-3, C-3, G-2. Rarity-1. Choice

Extremely Fine, in fact, possibly even a slightly higher grade since it has little, if any, actual wear. Medium tan color. Reverse die slightly rotated. Somewhat lackluster, possibly from having been stored in a coin envelope for many years. A touch of verdigris on several areas, most noticeable at the date. Purchased as Uncirculated from M.L. Kaplan on 3/16/55 for \$25.

135. 1809, Normal Date, B-4, C-3, G-4. High Rarity-1. Uncirculated,

nearly Choice. Faded mint red and brown with a few spots. Very sharply struck. This is a very common date, but the variety is uncommon, if not scarce.

136. 1810, B-1, C-1, G-1. Rarity-2. Very Fine.

Dark and porous with a light filmy haze over the surfaces, probably the result of being in a coin envelope for 40 or 50 years. Several corrosion spots including one at the rim near the 4th star and one directly behind Liberty's ribbon. Purchased from Max Kaplan on 3/4/55 for \$8.75.

137. 1811, B-2, C-2, G-1. Rarity-3. Very Good.

Dark and very porous. Rare date. Purchased from a Mr. Moyes on 3/1/53.

138. A pair of Classic Head Half Cents dated 1825 and 1826. The

1825 is B-1, C-1, G-2 and the 1826 is B-1, C-1, G-1. Both coins grade **Very Fine** or better, but they have been cleaned and now have iridescent toning. They were purchased from M.L. Kaplan on 3/4/55, the 1825 for \$4.25, the 1826 for \$6.50. Two pieces.



139. 1828, 13 stars, B-2, C-3, G-1. Rarity-1. Uncirculated.

Some light marks and hairlines in the fields as well as a few tiny spots, but this coin has all of its full original mint red color and luster. A hoard coin, probably from the Collins Find. It was purchased from a Numismatic Gallery sale on 2/10/53 as Lot 1225 for \$5.25.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1831 HALF CENT

First Restrike



140. 1831, First Restrike, Reverse of 1836, B-2, G-1a. 80.3 grains. Rarity-6. Very Choice Proof. Deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and extremely attractive multicolored toning. On the obverse, there are hazy sunset shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue-green and greenish-gold while the reverse is a lighter, cooler shade of greenish-

gold and blue. The fields have very few marks other than a few faint hairlines and the coin is really of excellent overall quality. Very rare and desirable; only an estimated 25-30 examples are known, this among the finest. Purchased from Twin City Coin Co., 6/10/49, for \$65.



141. 1832, B-1, C-1, G-2. Rarity-2. Choice Uncirculated. Almost full mint red on the obverse, faded mint red and brown on the reverse. Considerable verdigris in the reverse letters. Purchased as a Proof from the Crosby, Mayfield, MacMurray sale (Stack's, 1/58) as Lot 516. The coin realized \$50 at the sale, a price that would have been expected at that time for a legitimate Proof. Certainly the coin has some of the characteristics of a true Proof, including rather mirrorlike fields, but I do not feel that it has sufficient depth of fields and quality of strike to justify calling it a true Proof. Others may examine it closely and conclude otherwise, as did JJP and others in 1958.



142. 1833, B-1, C-1, G-1. Rarity-1. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Mostly mint red, but with some blue and violet toning as well as faded red and brown. Very prooflike fields and, in fact, purchased as a Proof by JJP and often displayed with his 1833 Proof coins. However, in my opinion, this coin is a prooflike business strike rather than a true Proof. (It is not unusual for an 1833 Half Cent to be fully prooflike and such coins have often been incorrectly offered as Proofs in the past.). There is a die break running from the 3rd star through the 7th star and into the field above the hair. The obverse has several green verdigris spots. Obtained 3/24/47 from a Walter Webb sale, Lot 997, for \$13.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1834 HALF CENT



143. 1834, B-1, C-1, G-1. 82.0 grains. **Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-6 as Proof.** Proof. Deep brown color, razor sharp strike, mirror edge. Just a trace of original mint red remains around some of the letters and devices. The surfaces are somewhat dull and the minimally mirrorlike

fields do not have a great deal of depth, but I feel this coin is definitely a Proof. As such, it is very rare since only 20-25 Proof 1834 Half Cents are known. Purchased for \$15, but JJP has not indicated a date of purchase or seller.

CHOICE PROOF 1835 HALF CENT



144. 1835, B-2, C-2, G-1. 84.8 grains. **Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-6 as Proof.** Die State 1. Choice Proof. Full mint red. Signs of a fingerprint and light carbon in areas on the obverse. A few hairlines, as well as a mark on the neck, and a small lint mark out in front of the chin. A spot of corrosion at the rim above the 7th star. The deep mirror fields make this coin much more obviously a

Proof than the 1834 offered in the previous lot. However, both of them are Proofs, it is just that 1835 Proofs usually are more mirrorlike than 1834 Proofs. In Proof, the 1835 Half Cent is comparable in overall rarity to the 1834 with only about 20-25 pieces known. Purchased from Lester Merkin's 9/20/67 sale as Lot 33 where it realized \$475.



145. 1835, B-1, C-1, G-2. **Rarity-1.** Choice Uncirculated. About 50 percent mint red on the obverse, the rest faded brown. The reverse is mostly brown with just a trace of original mint red and beautiful light iridescent toning. A few spots on the obverse, none on the reverse. Evidence of clash marks near the throat and just below the truncation of the neck. Obtained 11/15/50 from the Numismatic Gallery sale of the Williams Collection, Lot 750. It realized \$4.50 at that sale.

POPULAR 1836 ORIGINAL HALF CENT

Very Rare Proof-Only Issue



146. 1836, Original, B-1, G-1. 82.3 grains. **Low Rarity-6.** **Choice Proof**, despite a carbon spot on the cheek. Light iridescent toning with just a few faint hairlines as well as a touch of verdigris around some of the devices and near the rim. Very attractive overall appearance. This is a rare and popular Proof-only issue. The number minted is unknown, but it is estimated that around 30 specimens exist today. Ex. Dr. Charles Ruby Collection sale, Part I, February 1974 (Superior), where it realized \$1,500 as Lot 291. Previously in an Abner Kreisberg mail bid sale in 1955, Lot 43.

A SECOND 1836 ORIGINAL PROOF HALF CENT



147. 1836, Original, B-1, G-1. 84.6 grains. **Low Rarity-6. Proof.** Nearly a full mint red obverse with shades of gold and violet toning as well as a few tiny carbon spots. The reverse is a bit lackluster and appears to have been cleaned, now having light hairlines and reddish-gold color with violet overtones. Struck only in Proof. Purchased by JJP for \$52 from the Numismatic Gallery sale of 1/26/49, Lot 43.

ORIGINAL 1840 HALF CENT

Struck Only In Proof



148. 1840, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1a, G-1. 81.2 grains. **Rarity-6. Mishandled Proof.** Mostly dull brown, but with some mint red color around the letters and devices and a trace of blue toning. Considerable friction and marks in the fields. Very faint reeding still visible on the edge. Very rare with an estimated population of 18-22 pieces. Ex. Dr. C.A. Allenburger Collection sale (Mehl, 3/48), Lot 992, at \$65.50.

According to Walter Breen, to strike this issue, "Blanks were experimentally reeded, then coined in a plain collar...Reason unknown." This is possible, I suppose, but it is hard to imagine what the rationale might have been for "experimentally" reeding copper Half Cent planchets and then using a plain collar to strike the coins. Surely the Mint knew that such a procedure would largely, if not entirely, obliterate the reeding. And what would have been the point in having reeded edges on Half Cents in the first place? The alternative explanation by Robert Schonwalter that a reamed out Half Eagle collar was used seems more credible to me than the Breen explanation, but both explanations are mere speculation.

VERY RARE 1841 ORIGINAL HALF CENT

Large Berries, Proof-Only Issue



149. 1841, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1, G-1. 83.0 grains. Rarity-6. Late Die State 3. Choice Proof. Very sharply struck, a high wire rim on both sides. Beautiful iridescent greenish-blue and gold toning with some shades of violet and russet. Prominent die crack running from the denticles near the 2nd star, through the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th stars, and ending up in the denticles above the 7th. Contrary to Breen's statement in his Half Cent book, the die break on this Original is as pronounced as

on most Restrikes. Struck only in Proof in very small quantities; perhaps no more than 25-30 exist today. (As rare as it is, the 1841 Original is the most common Proof Half Cent of the decade, just as the 1841 Large Cent is the most common Proof Large Cent of the 1840's. But the 1841 Proof silver coins are perhaps the rarest. Why this discrepancy?) Purchased from Numismatic Gallery on 7/29/47 for \$85.

CHOICE PROOF 1842 ORIGINAL HALF CENT



150. 1842, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1, G-1. 81.9 grains. High Rarity-6, possibly Low Rarity-7. Choice Proof. Uniform medium brown color with very attractive iridescent toning, a blend of greenish-gold, blue and violet. Over the 9th star, there is a very tiny Mint made planchet imperfection on the rim. There is also a touch of

verdigris in the reverse letters. Purchased as Lot 1133 from the Anderson DuPont sale, Part II, held by Stack's 11/11-13/54, where it realized \$120.

The 1842 Original is one of the most highly regarded of the Proof-only Half Cents of the decade. It is estimated that no more than 12-15 specimens are known.

1843 ORIGINAL HALF CENT

Struck Only In Proof



151. 1843, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1a, G-1. 83.0 grains. Rarity-6. Choice Proof. Mostly brown on the obverse with just a trace of mint red around the devices; considerable mint red on the reverse. There are a few tiny, scattered spots of verdigris. The 8 in the date is repunched, the earlier punch showing below the bottom

loop of the 8. All of the berries on the reverse show doubling to the right. Struck only in Proof; an estimated 20-25 pieces can be accounted for today, two of which, including the one in the 1843 Original Proof Set, are in the Pittman Collection. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery on 6/13/47 for \$90.

VERY RARE 1847 ORIGINAL HALF CENT

Proof-Only Issue



152. 1847, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1a, G-1. 81.8 grains. Rarity-6. Very Choice Proof, if not an actual Gem. Superb deep blue, violet and mint red toning. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim, particularly evident on the obverse. No spots, impairments or problems of any kind.

This is one of the finest of JJP's Proof Half Cents. Very rare; only about 15-20 Original Proofs exist, no more than a few of which match the exquisite quality of this coin. Purchased from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale (Mehl, 3/23/48), Lot 1065, for \$73.50.



153. 1847, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1a, G-1. 81.8 grains. **Rarity-6.** A Proof that appears to have been in circulation because it now grades the equivalent of Choice Almost Uncirculated and has definite, albeit minimal, wear. Completely brown with just a trace of blue and gold toning. There is also some verdigris throughout the letters and devices. Very rare; only 15-20 pieces are known. Purchased from the Dr. Charles Ruby Collection sale, Part I, February 11-13, 1974, Lot 296, for \$440.

VERY RARE PROOF 1848 ORIGINAL HALF CENT



154. 1848, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1a, G-1. 83.3 grains. **High Rarity-6, possibly Low Rarity-7.** Proof, nearly Choice despite signs of a fingerprint and some carbon spots on the obverse. Beautiful soft red-dish-gold color and a slight haziness to the surfaces, probably due to the way the coin was stored. The spots are fairly numerous on the obverse, but not especially serious. Extremely well struck; considerable mirrorlike fields and a partial wire rim on both sides. One of the rarest Proof-only issues of the 1840's, more or less on a par with the 1842 and 1849 Small Date. Only an estimated 12-15 examples are known. Purchased 11/14/50 from the Numismatic Gallery sale of the Williams Collection, Lot 768, for \$102.50.

SELDOM SEEN 1849 SMALL DATE ORIGINAL HALF CENT

Very Rare Proof-Only Issue



155. 1849, Small Date, Original, Large Berries on reverse, B-1, G-1. 83.5 grains. **High Rarity-6, possibly Low Rarity-7.** Proof. Mostly mint red, although with some areas of brown. Rather heavily lacquered on both obverse and reverse, and there is now some iridescent toning in the lacquering. A few scattered carbon spots, none serious, as well as a few faint hairlines. There is a high wire rim on both sides. Very rare; in fact, this is one of the rarest of the Proof-only issues of this decade. It is similar in overall rarity to the 1842 and 1848 with only 12-15 examples thought to exist. Purchased from a George Bauer sale, Lot 328, for \$61.

Terms of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, will be conducted in accordance with the Terms of Sale printed in the front of this catalogue. We request that each bidder read these terms carefully prior to bidding. Bidding in this sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of Sale.

VERY RARE PROOF 1850 HALF CENT



156. 1850, B-1, C-1, G-1, 83.9 grains. Rarity-2 as variety, High Rarity-6, possibly Low Rarity-7 as Proof. Proof. The obverse is mostly mint red with some violet and blue tones; the reverse has more faded colors, but also beautiful iridescent toning in shades of violet, blue-green and blue. Sharply struck with a high wire rim on both sides and moderately mirrorlike fields. Similar in rarity to the 1848 and 1849 just offered; i.e. only 12-15 Proofs are known. Purchased from the Anderson DuPont sale, Part II, in November 1954 as Lot 1150 for \$45.

Comparing this coin to the next lot, particularly by examining the edges, one can easily see the difference between a true Proof and a business strike. On this piece, the edge is very broad, square and mirrorlike compared to the rounded rims and lack of mirror surface on the edge of the business strikes. Also, the strike is noticeably sharper on this piece than on a business strike.



157. 1850, B-1, C-1, G-1. Rarity-2. Uncirculated. Doubling on the date, profile and stars. Attractive brown color with beautiful multicolored iridescent toning. B. Max Mehl called this coin a "semi-proof", his term for what we today call "prooflike". Purchased from Mehl's famous Dr. Christian Allenburger sale, 3/24/48, Lot 1096, for \$7.35.

POSSIBLE PROOF 1851 HALF CENT



158. 1851, B-1, C-1, G-1. 82.7 grains. Rarity-1 as Business Strike, Rarity-7 as Proof. Brilliant Uncirculated, Prooflike, or possibly Proof (per New Netherlands). In my opinion, this coin is a prooflike Mint State coin, but JJP purchased the coin from a New Netherlands sale in October 1953 as a Proof where it was described by their expert staff as, "Iridescent pink and blue Proof, not fully brilliant and with minute spot near 9th star. Decidedly rare. There are only 7 Proof examples known to us including this piece and the specimen in the Mint Collection." JJP paid \$57.50 for this coin at the auction, which was in keeping with its alleged Proof status at that time.

I am not convinced that true Proofs of any denominations of 1851 and 1853 were actually struck in their respective years of issue. Those pieces which conceivably could be called Proofs appear to me to be "accidental" or "unintentional" Proofs (cf. Lots 487 and 615) or Restrikes (e.g. the Silver Dollars of 1851 and 1853). They certainly never look like the Proofs of the 1840's, the Proofs from 1854 on, or even those of 1852 (which may themselves be Restrikes). And why, if there are Proofs of other denominations, are there no confirmed Proof Large Cents of those years? If the Mint had struck Proofs of other denominations in 1851 and 1853, surely they would also have minted Proof Large Cents, which from 1840-1857 almost always were struck in greater quantities than any other denomination. Perhaps further research will eventually solve this mystery.

RARE PROOF 1852 HALF CENT

First Restrike



159. 1852, First Restrike, Small Berries on reverse, B-2, G-2. 82.8 grains. Rarity-5. Gem Proof. Beautiful sea-green toning with a few violet highlights and somewhat deeper shades of blue and violet on the reverse. Very sharply struck with a high wire rim at the top of the obverse and a similar position on the reverse. Purchased by JJP from a George Bauer sale in the 1940's, Lot 329, for \$37.

This Proof is identifiable as a First Restrike specimen by the recutting at the T of CENT. The recutting is also evident on the other letters of CENT, but it is most noticeable at the right side of T. Rare, but certainly much more common than any of the Original or Restrike issues of the 1840's. Perhaps as many as 50-60 examples are known, but not many are Gems like this one.

160. 1853, B-1, C-1, G-1. Rarity-1. Uncirculated, nearly Choice. Almost full original mint red with just a few areas starting to turn to brown. Partial wire rim on the lower reverse,

some very minor spotting. Purchased from a Mike Kolman sale, 11/27/58, Lot 1003, for \$20.

VERY RARE PROOF 1854 HALF CENT



161. 1854, B-2, G-1. 84.0 grains. Rarity-3 as variety, Low Rarity-6 as Proof. Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. Fully struck with a partial wire rim. Two very tiny marks on the jawline. The obverse has considerable mint red with shades of blue and violet toning. The reverse is more deeply toned a muted red with brown

and violet highlights. This coin has the prominent die lump on the I of UNITED identifying it as the B-2 variety. Very rare and, in my view, rather underrated; only 25-30 Proofs are known for this year, all Originals. Obtained from B. Max Mehl's Allenburger sale, 3/23/48, Lot 1140, for \$26.

RARE AND BEAUTIFUL PROOF 1855 HALF CENT



162. 1855, B-1, C-1, G-1. 81.1 grains. Rarity-1 as variety, High Rarity-5, possibly Low Rarity-6 as Proof. Very Choice Proof, bordering on full Gem status. Almost full mint red and gold color, just starting to turn slightly brown on the reverse. There are only a few tiny obverse spots and

the fields are highly mirrorlike. Signs of recutting on the second 5 in the date; there are also many raised die scratches throughout the fields. Rare, but slightly less so than the 1854; perhaps as many as 30-35 Proofs are known. Purchased 10/20/46 from D.O. Hughes for \$30.

CHOICE PROOF 1856 HALF CENT



163. 1856, B-3, G-1. 81.3 grains. Rarity-4 as Proof. Choice Proof. Superb reverse with gorgeous violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. The obverse is a mix of original mint red and gold with some dark bluish-purple spots. Recutting on the right side of the T in CENT which indi-

cates that this was the die that was later used for the Restrike Half Cents of the 1840's and 1852. Considerably more common than any of the preceding Proofs; in fact, this is the most common Half Cent in Proof. At least 75, and perhaps even as many as 90, Proofs have survived.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1857 HALF CENT



164. 1857, B-2, C-1, G-1. 84.3 grains. High Rarity-4, possibly Low Rarity-5 as Proof. Very Choice Proof. Mostly mint red and gold, but with beautiful iridescent toning beginning to form, particularly on the obverse, which is now a lovely blend of blue-green and violet. A few tiny pin-

point carbon spots. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields. This is the second most common Proof Half Cent after the 1856. At least 60 exist and possibly as many as 80. Purchased at the 1948 ANA Convention from Milford Stamp & Coin for \$20.

U.S. LARGE CENTS

I would like to thank Mr. Denis Loring of New York City for his assistance on the following Large Cent section. Mr. Loring is one of the most expert and knowledgeable individuals in this specialized field. Not only did he attribute all of the Large Cents in the Pittman Collection according to die variety, but he also provided me with rarity data and pedigree information on the many Proofs in the collection. This information is more accurate and comprehensive than has ever appeared before in any auction catalogue, and should be of great interest and assistance to prospective bidders as well as Large Cent enthusiasts and researchers in the field.

165. 1793, Wreath, Vine and Bars Edge, Sheldon-6. Rarity-3. Very Good, but with considerable corrosion as well as an obvious attempt at strengthening some of the obverse design elements. Also, the numerator of the fraction below the wreath has been scraped off. There is also a noticeable gouge in the field in front of Liberty's nose. Much better overall appearance than the description makes it sound, but any potential bidders should realize that this coin has been "worked on." Purchased 5/19/55 from R.L. Low of Hamilton, Ontario, for \$90.



166. 1794, S-71. Rarity-2. Choice Very Fine. Uniform medium brown color. Some corrosion and possible remnants of a cleaning substance around the date, reverse wreath and legends as well as in the incused letters on the edge. From a mark standpoint, the surfaces are clean and fairly undamaged, but the corrosion serves to lower the grade a bit.

**MINT STATE PLAIN EDGE
1795 LARGE CENT**

Sheldon-78



167. 1795, Plain Edge, S-78. **Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** A touch of mint red still present in recessed areas, light brown to medium brown color elsewhere. Some planchet porosity "as made" on the obverse, particularly noticeable on Liberty's face, at TY of LIBERTY, and also on the cap and the denticles nearby. There is also the same porosity evident at the N of UNITED. The reverse is a slightly lighter color than the obverse with shades of reddish-violet, gold and a touch of blue toning over basically tan colored surfaces. Very sharply struck and fairly well centered, although off ever so slightly to the right on the obverse. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 54th sale, 4/23/60, Lot 1368, for \$165. Earlier from Henry Chapman, 11/8/15.

**BEAUTIFUL CHOICE MINT STATE
1797 "NICHOLS FIND" CENT**

Sheldon-123



169. 1797, Rev. of 1797, Stems, S-123. **Rarity-4. Choice Uncirculated.** A "Nichols Find" Cent. Beautiful medium glossy brown color. Irregularity in the planchet at the rim above TY in LIBERTY and the corresponding place on reverse above RI in AMERICA. The fields are slightly prooflike and the coin has outstanding luster. There is just a trace of roughness on Liberty's forehead from weak striking. The coin is otherwise sharply struck, however, and well centered with broad even denticles all around. Virtually no impairments since being struck and the overall appearance of this coin is excellent. Same source as Lot 167, namely the New Netherlands 54th sale, Lot 1380, for \$195. Earlier from U.S. Coin Co., 5/9/15.

170. 1798, Large, Wide Date, Style 1 Hair, S-153. **Rarity-4. Very Fine.** Dark and porous with the surfaces having a very dark greenish-brown tint.



171. 1798, Style 2 Hair, S-172. **High Rarity-2. Choice Very Fine.** Glossy medium brown color. Traces of verdigris in and around the letters. Obvious die clashing to the right of LIBERTY with RICA incused. Noticeable repunching on 7 of the date. A few light handling marks in the fields. Well struck and centered.

SCARCE AND POPULAR

1799 S-189 CENT



172. 1799, Normal Date, S-189. **Rarity-2.** **Very Good**, perhaps even Fine, because the obverse shows considerable hair detail. (Actually the detail on the hair is more consistent with a Very Fine grade, but the coin is dark and somewhat porous and the weak reverse brings the overall grade down a little bit.) The rim is wearing just slightly into the bottom of the numerals of the date. Still, for a 1799 Cent, this piece is really quite nice and has no serious problems. This is one of the classic rarities of the Large Cent series; in fact, as a date, 1799 is the rarest issue from 1793-1857. Purchased from R.L. Low of Hamilton, Ontario, in 1955, price unknown.



173. 1800, Wide Date, Perfect Die Reverse, S-204. **High Rarity-4.** **Very Fine** or better. Sharply struck and well centered. Medium brown toning with a few traces of verdigris around the letters and devices. Small old scratch running from the rim at K-7 across the lower curl to the tops of 18 in the date. Some porosity on the face and a few little brush marks in the fields by LIB. An area of darker toning runs across the reverse wreath and denomination from IT in UNITED to OF.



174. 1801, Normal Dies, Blunt 1's in date, S-216. **Low Rarity-2.** **Very Fine**. Medium brown color, well struck and centered. A few marks are present consistent with the grade, as well as some light green toning forming in the wreath on the reverse. OF in the reverse legend is very weak and barely legible.



175. 1802, Double Fraction Bar, Stemless Wreath, S-241. **High Rarity-1.** **Choice Very Fine**, approaching Extremely Fine overall. Some planchet porosity and roughness throughout the fields. Sharply struck and well centered. Medium tan color with some darker areas as well as a trace of brick red. In addition to the double fraction bar, the engraver also punched the second S in STATES so low that it touches the top leaf of the wreath. Purchased from Charles Foster on 9/27/53 for \$22.50.



176. 1803, Small Date, Small Fraction, S-255. **Rarity-1.** **Choice Very Fine**. Uniform medium brown color. Some areas of verdigris and corrosion around the devices, most notable on the reverse. Very few marks, scratches or problems. Blunt 1 in the date. Slightly weak at OF in the reverse legend, but very sharp and well struck elsewhere. Purchased from Walter Webb, date and price unknown.



177. 1803, Small Date, Large Fraction, S-260. **Rarity-1.** **Extremely Fine**. A beautiful coin with medium brown color and a touch of light iridescent toning, especially noticeable on the obverse. Very few marks or other impairments and there is also little, if any, verdigris or corrosion. Nicely struck and well centered.

SCARCE 1804 LARGE CENT



178. 1804, S-266c. **Rarity-2. Very Fine.** Glossy brown color. Prominent cud over RTY and on the reverse over MERI, indicating this is a late die state. Medium brown color with just a slight greenish haze. A few light and old scratches and marks on the obverse as well as a slight rub, probably from minor mishandling, near the right rim across from Liberty's face and neck. Crosslet 4 in date with two raised vertical lines to the right of the crosslet indicating the 4 might have been repunched. A scarce and popular date, long considered one of the classic issues of the series.



179. 1805, S-269. **Rarity-1. Very Fine.** Rather dark brown in color with some areas even darker than others. Die break from hair ribbon to curl. A few old marks and porosity in the fields, but the coin really has very few impairments. Well struck and perfectly centered.



180. 1806, S-270. **Rarity-1. Extremely Fine.** Uniform medium brown color. Sharply struck with doubling near the right obverse rim; slightly off center towards the left. One very fine old scratch runs from the center of the neck out into the field, but the fields and devices are otherwise very clean for a coin in this grade.



183. 1808, S-279. **Rarity-1. Choice Very Fine.** Medium brown with light iridescent toning. Traces of red and greenish-gold on the obverse, cooler shades on the reverse, mostly greenish-gold and blue. A couple of places of light corrosion or verdigris on the reverse, but the obverse is very nice. Well struck, although the denticles by the right stars are not well defined.



184. 1809, S-280. **Rarity-2. Fine or better.** Dark brown color, quite uniform. Die break in field near 11th star. Some verdigris on reverse. Softly struck on the stars, fairly sharp on the figure. Scarce date. Purchased from a Mr. Phillips in October 1955 for \$12. JJP notes that Mr. Phillips originally asked \$20, so JJP obviously did some serious negotiating!



185. 1810, S-285. **Rarity-3. Very Fine.** Uniform dark brown color. Some minor patches of verdigris throughout the obverse around the stars, top of the hair, and the date. Some similar verdigris on the reverse. Well struck and centered.

188. 1813, S-293. **Rarity-2. Choice Very Fine,** possibly even full EF. Dark and somewhat porous. Weak at the top stars on both sides of Miss Liberty as well as the top of her hair. Indistinct near the denticles on the right obverse, weak at UNI of UNITED on the reverse.



186. 1811, Normal Date, S-287. **Rarity-2. Extremely Fine.** Very sharply struck, average centering, denticles on the obverse and the reverse not particularly well defined. Considerable corrosion on the reverse, inside and to the right of the wreath. There is also a noticeable corrosion spot at Liberty's nose and lip, and another in the hair curls behind her ear below TY. Even medium brown color with just a trace of greenish-gold iridescence. Purchased from the 10/53 New Netherlands sale as Lot 228 for \$29.

189. 1814, Crosslet 4, S-294. **Rarity-1. Choice Extremely Fine.** Very uniform medium brown color. A few traces of verdigris around the stars. Sharply struck and just a bit off-center on both sides. Really a very attractive and high quality coin for the grade.



187. 1812, Small Date, S-290. **Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated** in terms of wear, but the coin, unfortunately, has been lightly wire brushed giving it a somewhat irregular color. (By being brushed, some of the toning has been removed and, of course, this has exposed the original copper colored surface underneath.) This was purchased from George Bauer, JJP's mentor, in the 1940's, and Bauer noted that, "Some microscopic brushlike scratches are hardly noticeable and detract very little from this rare Uncirculated Brown and Red. Stars all centered."

190. 1814, Plain 4, S-295. **Rarity-1. Very Fine.** Even medium brown color. Repunching evident on outer left loop of the 8. A die break runs from the right upper loop of the 8, through the bottom hair curl to the 11th star and the rim. Sharply struck and well centered. Just a trace of light greenish-gold iridescence at the border of the reverse.

191. 1816, Newcomb-2. **Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated.** Medium tan color with greenish-gold toning and a few hints of mint red around the letters and devices. A touch of verdigris within the wreath on the reverse and at a few places on the obverse. Sharply struck and well centered. Prominent cud on the obverse rim between the 8th and 11th stars. Only the barest trace of rubbing on the highest points; some people may consider this coin to be Uncirculated. In fact, JJP originally purchased this coin as Uncirculated back in the 1940's.

192. 1816, N-5. Low Rarity-3. Almost Uncirculated. Beautiful deep tan color. A couple of small marks on and around the date.



193. 1817, 13 Stars, N-3. Rarity-2. Very Choice Uncirculated.

This coin would be a Gem were it not for a few tiny scratches near the denticles between the 5th and 7th stars. It is sharply struck and well centered and has beautiful iridescent blue, greenish-gold, violet and russet toning over medium brown surfaces. Purchased in 1951 from George Bauer for \$5.35, apparently from an auction because JJP notes that it was estimated at \$7.50.

194. 1817, 15 Stars, N-16. High Rarity-1. Very Fine. Reverse rotated slightly counter-clockwise from normal. Medium brown color, only a few trivial marks. Fully struck at the borders with most of the stars drawn to the rim.



195. 1818, N-10. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated or better. A "Randall Hoard" Cent with a prominent die break encircling all the stars and date on the obverse. Rich brown color with beautiful light iridescent blue and greenish-gold toning and a touch of violet; there are also several small areas of faded mint red. Glossy and attractive with very few marks and only a few tiny carbon flecks on both sides.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE PROOF 1819/8 LARGE CENT



196. 1819/8, N-1. High Rarity-1 as variety, R-8 or Unique as Proof. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Full mirror fields and beautiful medium tan surfaces that are enhanced with magnificent, light iridescent multicolored toning that is a blend of various shades of blue, greenish-gold, violet and russet. The coin is very sharply struck with broad even denticles all around, and sharp stars. There are a few tiny scratches and marks, as well as a few pinpoint carbon flecks, spots and verdigris, but the overall appearance of the coin is

still excellent. JJP purchased this Proof for \$70 as Lot 568 of the Anderson DuPont sale of September 24-25, 1954, conducted by Stack's. Earlier, it was in the Beckwith sale, Lot 54. The only other known offering of a Proof 1819/8 Cent was Mougey: 121, later reappearing as Sleicher: 1043. The Mougey coin may or may not be a different specimen from the DuPont coin offered here. If it is not, then this may well be the only known Proof 1819/8 Large Cent. A prize for the Large Cent specialist and one of the rarest of all Proof Large Cents.



197. **1819/8, N-1. High Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Beautiful medium tan color, light iridescent toning. Several small, darker areas as well as a few scattered carbon spots; one small mark in the field by Liberty's hair bun.



198. **1819, Large Date, N-2. Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Beautiful medium glossy tan color with attractive light iridescence. A few tiny spots on the obverse. A fine die break connects the first three numerals of the date to the first four stars on the left. Recutting on L and B in LIBERTY and repunching on the left edge of the upper loop of the 9. Well struck and centered, although a few of the stars are not fully defined all the way to their central points.



199. **1819, Small Date, N-9. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated,** perhaps even full Mint State. Beautiful light to medium tan color with attractive iridescent toning, mostly greenish-gold and blue with a dash of russet. All denticles are indistinct, if not missing entirely. Lustrous, clean surfaces with only a few pinpoint carbon flecks on the reverse.

SCARCE MINT STATE 1820/19 CENT



200. **1820/19, Small Date, N-2. High Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Dark brown color with a few lighter areas of multicolored iridescence. Not particularly lustrous, but the surfaces are clean and literally unmarked. Sharply struck, except for the last few stars, and very well centered. Purchased as Lot 361 from a George Bauer sale sometime in the late 1940's or early 1950's.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1820 LARGE CENT



201. **1820, Large Date, N-13. Rarity-1. Gem Uncirculated.** Nearly full mint red. A few tiny spots and several areas of faded brown color, but the coin has no marks, hairlines or impairments of any kind. This is a "Randall Hoard" Cent with a die break entirely encircling the stars and the date. Purchased from George Bauer in 1951 at one of Bauer's auctions where JJP paid \$5 on an estimate of \$6. George Bauer's description indicated, "Brilliant mint state as it dropped from the press, Gem."

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1821 N-1 LARGE CENT

Only 12-15 Examples Known



202. 1821, N-1. High Rarity-1 as variety, High Rarity-6 as Proof. Gem Proof. An absolutely magnificent coin that must be seen to be fully appreciated. It is superb with deep mirror fields on both sides, a razor sharp strike, and perfect centering. Despite a few really trivial hairlines and pinpoint carbon spots, this coin is of a quality that would do justice to a Proof Large Cent struck many years later. In fact, it would be rare to find a Proof Cent in the 1840's or even the 1850's that would compare favorably to this coin. The obverse has considerable mint red around the stars, date and parts of Liberty's headband and hair. It also has beautiful iridescent toning with cool shades of blue, violet and greenish-gold. The reverse is a lovely blend of blue-green, gold, blue and violet. The quality of this coin and its overall

appearance are absolutely extraordinary. This is the finest of JJP's early Proof Large Cents and one of the finest that could possibly exist. It was purchased from Numismatic Gallery on 5/1/53 for \$250.

Proof Large Cents, especially the earlier ones, are among the most beautiful and desirable of all numismatic items. They are invariably rare and are seldom seen except in great collections like the Pittman Collection. Even the Louis Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, the greatest collection of U.S. coins ever formed, had only two Proof Large Cents. The N-1 variety of 1821 offered here is one of the most common of the early Proof Large Cents (or Middle Date Proofs as they are also called), perhaps even the most common. Nevertheless, it is still a great rarity, and only an estimated 12-15 examples are known, this specimen possibly the finest. When we were displaying coins from the Pittman Collection at various coin shows in 1996 and 1997, few items drew as much attention as this fantastic Proof Large Cent.



203. 1821, N-1. High Rarity-1. Extremely Fine. Medium to dark tan color. Considerable verdigris, particularly on the reverse near the border, and around the wreath and

devices. Old fine scratch under the date and a smaller one to the left of the first 1 in the date. Flatly struck on stars 7 through 13, but very sharp elsewhere.

204. 1822, N-5. Rarity-2. Very Fine. Uniform dark brown color, a few traces of verdigris. Just a hint of light iridescence mixed throughout the dark toning. All of the stars on the obverse are flatly struck.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1822 CENT

Newcomb-10; Only 6-8 Proofs Known



205. 1822, N-10. Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Choice Proof. Dark brown with beautiful light iridescent multicolored toning. Razor sharp strike with all the stars fully defined to their central points. The denticles are broad and even on both sides. The fields of the coin are deeply mirrorlike and the surfaces are free of all but a few hairlines and a tiny mark to the right of the 2nd star. A raised inner die line encircles the coin close to the denticles for most of the obverse border, nearly intact from about K-4 to about K-12. On the edge above the 8th star is a tiny imperfection that is very possibly "as made". This coin was purchased by JJP for \$650 from the New Netherlands 54th sale, 4/22-23/60, Lot 1535, where it was catalogued by Walter Breen as "Desirable, glittering Proof. Uncleaned, untampered."

According to Large Cent specialist Denis Loring, only 6-8 examples of 1822 N-10 are known in Proof along with a like number of Proofs of other varieties of 1822. Following is a list of specimens he has traced, although these listings do not necessarily represent distinct coins; duplication is possible. Conversely, examples may exist that are not listed here.

1. Floyd Starr: 156; Morgenthau 6/42: 349.
2. Norweb: 2884.
3. Smithsonian Institution.
4. Byron Reed: 20.
5. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here:
NN 54: 1535; French: 439; J. Wilson: 1057; Frothingham: 100.
6. Webb 10/41: 790; Webb 4/41: 2.
7. Coin Galleries 8/56: 2280.
8. Cleneay: 1859; McCoy: 703.
9. Mackenzie: 668.

206. 1823/2, N-1. Low Rarity-2. Very Fine. Porous on the obverse, especially on the face and near the date. Undoubtedly cleaned at one time and now with irregular multicolored iridescent toning.

207. 1823, Normal Date, N-2. Rarity-2. Very Fine from the standpoint of overall wear, perhaps even Extremely Fine, but the coin is dark and very porous. Obtained from the New Netherlands 54th sale, Lot 1538, for \$55.

208. 1823, Normal Date, N-2. Rarity-2. Very Good. Even tan and brown color with some light iridescence. Light to moderate marks throughout the fields.

UNDERRATED MINT STATE 1824 LARGE CENT



209. 1824, Normal Date, N-4. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. A beautiful specimen that is nearly in the Choice category. Well centered and sharply struck. Glossy, light tan color with darker brown overtones. A few tiny specks of verdigris to the right of Liberty's eye and the hair curls just above it, as well as around several of the devices. Outstanding overall quality for an 1824 Cent, a date that is decidedly difficult to obtain in strictly Uncirculated condition. This piece was purchased for \$34 from a New Netherlands sale on 9/26/53, Lot 855. It was from the Hillyer Ryder Collection where it was noted that Mr. Ryder had paid \$28 for the coin at the Sleicher sale in 1919.

210. 1825, Large A's in legend, N-2. High Rarity-2. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State with just a touch of friction on the high points. Light tan color with some faded mint red around the periphery and the devices on the reverse. Purchased for \$46 from a New Netherlands sale on 9/26/53, Lot 856, where it was noted that this coin was from the Virgil Brand Collection.

211. 1826, Normal Date, N-5. Rarity-1. Choice Very Fine. Sharply struck with very bold stars, well centered. Reddish-tan color with a number of green verdigris spots, the most prominent of which is at the 13th star and the adjacent denticles.

212. 1827, N-1. High Rarity-1. Extremely Fine. Medium brown color with iridescent greenish-gold and blue toning and a trace of faded mint red. Very sharply struck with bold stars and broad even denticles all around, particularly on the obverse. Some minute traces of verdigris both sides. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 9/26/53 sale as Lot 863 for \$16.50; formerly in the Virgil Brand Collection.

213. A group of four Large Cents including the following: 1828, Large Narrow Date, N-8. High Rarity-3. Fine, cleaned; 1836, N-1. Rarity-1. Choice Very Fine; 1845, N-6. Rarity-2. Extremely Fine. Sharply struck with high wire rim, scratches above hair bun; and 1852, N-12. Rarity-1. Choice Very Fine. Medium tan color. Four pieces.

214. 1829, Large Letters, N-8. High Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous golden brown toning with some light iridescent greenish-gold highlights. A few traces of verdigris, nothing really serious. The surfaces are very clean with few marks of any kind other than one nick on Liberty's chin. The stars at the top of the obverse are weak; those at the left and right are fairly sharp. This piece was purchased at the New Netherlands 9/26/53 sale, Lot 871, for \$18, where it was noted that it was formerly in the Virgil Brand Collection.

215. 1830, Large Letters, N-8. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated, in fact, virtually Mint State and likely to be so graded by some. Beautiful medium reddish-brown color with light iridescent blue, violet and greenish-gold toning.

Buyer's Charge

A 10% buyer's charge will be added to all invoices. This buyer's charge is applicable to all successful bidders regardless of affiliation with any group or organization.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1831 LARGE CENT

Only 10-12 Proofs Known of N-3 Variety



216. 1831, Small Letters, N-3. Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Very Choice Proof or better. A magnificent specimen with superb, glossy mirror fields and gorgeous colors, mostly brown, but also beautiful iridescent greenish-gold, blue, violet and faded mint red. There is a slight planchet imperfection "as made" at the rim by the 12th star and the corresponding position on the reverse near the first A in AMERICA. The surfaces are remarkably clean and have only a few absolutely trivial hairlines as well as a couple of tiny carbon spots in the obverse field near the 3rd and 4th stars. There is prominent recutting on the letters in ONE and CENT as well as on most of the letters in AMERICA. Softly struck on most of the stars and near the upper obverse border, but an unquestioned Proof, certainly one of the finest known Proof examples of this date. Purchased by JJP from the Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale, 3/23/48, Lot 877, for \$75.

Denis Loring has provided the following list of Proof 1831 N-3 Large Cents. Not all of these listings represent different specimens, i.e. some duplication is possible, and Mr. Loring indicates that he estimates that only 10-12 examples of this variety are known in Proof along with another 10-12 Proofs of other varieties of 1831, some of which are one-sided.

1. 1952 ANA Sale (H.K. Downing): 2176.
2. Stack's 10/90: 661; Floyd Starr: 246; Oscar Pearl: 319.
3. Stack's 3/96: 30; Auction '80: 1062; T. James Clarke: 237.
4. EAC '89: 321; NERCA 11/79: 38; French: 503.
5. M & G 7/94: 107; Auction '86: 13; Tad: 106; A. DuPont: 691; Beckwith: 78; H.P. Smith: 1144.
6. Ivy 2/95: 5046.
7. Teletrade 4/1/96: 108.
8. Lahrman: 365; T. James Clarke: 238.
9. D.S. Wilson: 939.
10. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; C.A. Allenburger: 877.
11. George Earle: 3501.
12. Thomas Elder 12/24: 2273.
13. Harold Bareford.
14. Kagan 1945 Fixed Price List: 93.

217. 1831, Large Letters, N-7. Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated. Medium brown and tan obverse, lighter tan reverse with a few darker overtones as well as just a touch of original mint red. Sharply struck on the central devices, but a few of the left stars are somewhat weak. Green verdigris spot at rim between 4th and 5th stars.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1832 LARGE CENT



218. 1832, Large Letters, N-3. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. A beautiful coin with a light tan obverse and a somewhat darker reverse, particularly in the lower left quadrant. The left stars are rather flat, the stars to the right are very sharp. No marks or mishandling of any kind on the coin, although there are a couple of tiny verdigris and carbon spots on the reverse. Prominently recut or defective T in CENT, especially noticeable at the bottom. Purchased as Lot 786 from a Numismatic Gallery sale, 12/9/52, for \$18.50.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1833 LARGE CENT



219. 1833, N-3. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. A glossy Mint State specimen with considerable mint red on the obverse, a little less on the reverse. Some minor verdigris on the reverse, as well as a few dark toning spots. Sharply struck and nicely centered with a very pleasing overall appearance. Recutting at the top of E in ONE and also prominent recutting of the CE in CENT. The bases of both E's in the denomination are incomplete.

ANOTHER UNCIRCULATED 1833 LARGE CENT



220. 1833, N-5. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. Brown and faded mint red, somewhat more red on the reverse than on the obverse. A die break encircles the date and the left stars up through the 9th. On the reverse, a die break runs from about K-4 at the R of AMERICA below the wreath and then through the legend UNITED STATES OF. A very choice and appealing coin.

221. 1834, Small 8, Large Stars, N-2. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State with just a trace of friction on the high points. Glossy medium tan color with light verdigris on the reverse. A die break starts at the upper serif of the 1 and encircles all of the stars, ending at the top of the 4.

Pittman, Part Two

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will take place on May 20-21, 1998, at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. This second sale will consist of U.S. Coins, Medals and Paper Money, and will be conducted in two sessions.

Featured in this second sale will be U.S. Quarters, Half Dollars and Silver Dollars, as well as Quarter Eagles, \$3 Gold Pieces, Half Eagles, Eagles and Original Proof Sets. Highlighting the sale will be an 1835 Half Eagle in Proof and an 1838 Eagle in Proof, as well as cased Original Proof Sets dated 1845, 1846, and 1868. Every series will feature date and condition rarities in the Pittman tradition, and the sale is certain to be one of the greatest numismatic events of our time. We invite your participation.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1834 LARGE CENT

One of Only 5-7 Proofs Known of N-3 Variety



222. 1834, Large 8, Small Stars, Small Letters, N-3. Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Very Choice Proof with strong claims to being a Gem. The coin is a deep brown color with magnificent blue-green and gold toning. The strike is extraordinarily sharp with well defined denticles inside a broad border. There are a few tiny carbon spots, including two on Liberty's jaw, but no marks or other impairments worth noting. Overall, this Proof is very nearly the same caliber as the extraordinary 1821 and 1831 offered earlier. Purchased 7/8/52 from R. Green of Chicago for \$80.

The 1834 Large Cent is a major rarity in Proof. Denis Loring estimates that only 5-7 examples of this variety are known in Proof along with 7 of the Proof-only variety, N-7. He has provided the

following roster of specimens which does not necessarily represent all distinct examples.

1. R.E. Naftzger; T. James Clarke.
2. Smithsonian Institution.
3. King of Siam Proof Set.
4. Fisher 9/45: 797.
5. Beckwith: 81; Mougey: 178; Cleneay: 1883.
6. Morgenthaler 6/42: 355.
7. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; R. Green 7/52.

Note: Other unattributed 1834 Proofs include Mackenzie: 680, Mickley: 2035; and McCoy: 717. Either or both of these may have been the N-3 variety.

223. 1835, Head of 1836, N-14. Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Medium tan color with attractive light iridescent toning. Softly struck on the stars and near the border. A few tiny verdigris spots, mostly on the reverse.



224. 1835, Head of 1836, N-14. Rarity-2. Choice Uncirculated. Medium tan color with considerable faded mint red. Dark area on Liberty's lips and chin, just the beginning of carbon. There are also a few other scattered carbon spots, but the coin has no marks or hairlines, and it has beautiful luster and color.

225. 1836, N-3. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Beautiful medium glossy brown color on the obverse, slightly lighter tan color on the reverse. Traces of verdigris throughout the letters and devices on the reverse. Prominent cud near 6th star on the obverse.

226. 1837, Plain Hair Cord, Small Letters, N-4. High Rarity-2. Choice Very Fine. Possibly cleaned, now a medium brown color with some faded mint red.



227. 1837, Plain Hair Cord, Medium Letters, N-7 (N-8, same variety). Rarity-1. Gem Uncirculated. Magnificent medium brown color with faded mint red and beautiful light iridescent blue and greenish-gold toning. The surfaces are literally flawless. A die break runs from the rim above the first S in STATES through STATES OF, exiting to a denticle above the first A in AMERICA. By no means a rare date, but the quality is certainly exceptional.

228. 1837, Plain Hair Cord, Medium Letters, N-7 (N-8, same variety). Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Almost full mint red with just a few areas of patchy blue, greenish-gold and violet toning. There is one noticeable corrosion spot on the obverse rim between the 2nd and 3rd stars. This coin was purchased by JJP from a New Netherlands sale in October 1953 as Lot 240 for \$13. Earlier it was in the Dr. French Collection where it was called Superb Unc. In my opinion, the coin has been cleaned, but it still has a very attractive overall appearance.

229. 1837, Beaded Hair Cord, Head of 1838, N-10. Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State. Attractive medium brown color with just a few traces of verdigris near B in LIBERTY, at Liberty's ear and the back of her hair curls, and also in the wreath.



230. 1838, N-4. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Medium brown obverse, lighter reverse with traces of iridescent greenish-gold toning. Unusual die break running from a denticle to the left of the 9th star down to the hairbun next to the cord.



231. 1839, Head of 1840, N-8. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Attractive light iridescent blue, violet and gold toning. Edge nick on reverse rim below wreath as well as another above the first S in STATES. A couple of tiny verdigris spots; very minor corrosion on date.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1839 CENT

Booby Head Variety



232. 1839, "Booby Head", N-14. Rarity-3. Choice Uncirculated. Glossy, medium brown color with considerable mint red, especially on the reverse. There is one darker area of toning near the 3rd and 4th stars and several small patches of verdigris inside the reverse wreath. Fairly scarce in this high grade.

VERY RARE PROOF 1840 N-2 CENT



233. 1840, N-2. Rarity-1 as variety, High Rarity-6 as Proof.

Proof. This is the so-called Small Date over Large 18 variety; all Proofs of 1840 were struck from this die pair. Cleaned at one time and now with numerous light hairlines as well as light multicolored iridescent toning.

Some minor corrosion on the coin, especially at the date. Quality-wise, not particularly choice, but certainly very rare since only a few Proof 1840 Large Cents are known, perhaps 14-16 examples total. Purchased 12/9/52 from a Numismatic Gallery sale, Lot 844, for \$41.

234. 1840, Small Date, N-3. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Medium brown color. A fine die break encircles most of the stars and the date, running from the top of the date out to the right (touching the 13th, 12th and 11th stars, then exiting at

the denticles to the right), and to the left through the first six stars up to the rim. The coin has no marks or abrasions of any kind, but it does have traces of verdigris and light corrosion.

RARE AND CHOICE PROOF 1841 N-1 CENT



235. 1841, N-1. High Rarity-5. Choice Proof. Full original mint red and gold color with beautiful iridescent violet toning and a few tiny carbon spots. Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields and no hairlines, nicks, scratches or major impairments of any kind. Somewhat cloudy surfaces, particularly around the letters, from being stored in a paper pouch of the type that was popular decades ago. For a Proof Large Cent, this coin has exceptional brilliance and color and a superb overall appearance. Same die state as both Norweb specimens, i.e. with tiny die breaks on the rim over the second T in STATES.

Only Proofs were struck from this die pair and all Proof 1841 Large Cents are this N-1 variety. Purchased from R. Green of Chicago on 8/7/52 for \$80.

The Proof 1841 Large Cent is certainly rare with only an estimated 35-40 specimens known. However, by Proof Large Cent standards, it is relatively common; in fact, it is clearly the most common of any date prior to the last three years, 1855-1857. I find this rather curious because the Proof silver coins of 1841 are extremely rare, more so than almost any other year of Liberty Seated coinage. Undoubtedly, the copper and silver coins of 1841 were issued in sets with a few extra Silver Dollars and a small additional quantity of Half Cents also minted. But why are there so many (relatively speaking, of course) Large Cents?

236. 1841, N-3. **Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Dark glossy brown with just a trace of deep greenish-gold toning. A fine die break runs from the denticles below the first star, through the

bases of the numerals of the date and the 13th star, and past the 12th star to the rim. On the reverse, a die break encircles most of the legend and wreath.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1842 SMALL DATE LARGE CENT

One of Only 10-12 Proofs Known



237. 1842, Small Date, N-1. **Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Choice Proof.** Die state "a" with dots below 1 and 4 of the date. Medium to dark brown color enhanced with magnificent multicolored iridescent toning, a blend of greenish-gold, blue-green and violet. The surfaces are very clean and the fields are highly mirrorlike. There are just a couple of tiny carbon spots, but no hairlines or marks of any significance in the fields. There is, however, one noticeable reverse edge nick above AT in STATES. Ex. Hines, Downing, 1952 ANA sale, Lot 2198, where JJP purchased it for \$135. This is the third specimen listed in Walter Breen's Proof Encyclopedia.

The 1842 is the rarest date Large Cent in Proof of the 1840's; only an estimated 10-12 specimens are known, all of them this N-1 variety. Denis Loring has provided the following roster of known specimens. Of course, some of these may represent duplications, and other examples may exist that are not listed here.

1. T. James Clarke; Morgan: 328; Beckwith: 98; Mougey: 225; Parmelee: 1137.
2. A specimen certified Proof 65 Brown by NGC.
3. Superior 10/90: 3390.
4. ANS.
5. Smithsonian Institution.
6. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; 1952 ANA: 2198.
7. Auction '85: 508; Mid-American 9/84: 536; Floyd Starr: 413.
8. A specimen first located in Europe. Never auctioned.
9. A specimen in private hands.
10. Teletrade 1/95: 116; Robinson Brown: 938; Kagan 2/82: 153; Straus: 371.

There are four additional Proof 1842 Large Cent listings including (a) Morgan: 329; (b) Sleicher; Mougey: 226; (c) Stickney: 1628; and (d) Mickley: 2649. These may or may not represent different specimens from those listed above.



238. 1842, Small Date, N-2. **Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated.** Red and brown, a few tiny carbon spots. Weak stars at left, sharper ones right.

239. 1843, Obverse of 1842, Reverse of 1844 (Petite Head, Large Letters), N-4. **Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated.** Considerable mint red and brown with some very light blue and violet toning. A couple of tiny carbon spots are all that keep this out of the Gem category. Struck very slightly off center to the left on the reverse.

240. 1843, Type of 1844 (Mature Head, Large Letters), N-6.

High Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Considerable mint red remaining as well as some light violet and gold toning. A few tiny carbon and green verdigris spots.

244. 1845, N-6. **Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with a high wire rim around most of the obverse and a partial wire rim on the reverse. Medium brown color with light iridescent blue and greenish-gold toning and just a trace of faded mint red outlining the head. A few marks in the fields including one small gouge near the 4th star. Semi-prooflike fields with just a few very faint hairlines.

MINT STATE 1843 LARGE CENT

N-12, Type of 1842

Ex. Frederick Geiss Sale, Called "Proof"



241. 1843, Type of 1842 (Petite Head, Small Letters), N-12. **Rarity-2. Uncirculated,**

virtually in the Choice category. Sharply struck with prooflike fields. Superb iridescent blue-green, gold and russet toning. Weakly struck near the denticles and rims, but very sharp elsewhere and free of all but a few faint hairlines under the toning. Purchased by JJP for \$48.50 from the Frederick Geiss sale (Mehl, 2/18/47), Lot 224, as a Proof, and it admittedly bears a resemblance to one in certain ways. However, I consider the coin to be a prooflike business strike. Prospective bidders should examine this closely and make their own determination. Note: Walter Breen incorrectly attributed this Geiss coin as N-14, probably because it was catalogued as a Proof and virtually all Proof 1843 Large Cents are N-14. However, Breen never actually saw the coin.

242. 1844, N-5. **Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated.** Medium brown

with traces of light iridescent green and faded mint red. Prominent cud on the rim below the 1st star and 18 of the date. The first 4 in the date is prominently repunched.

243. 1845, N-4. **Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Medium tan color with attractive iridescent blue-green and gold toning as well as considerable mint red on the reverse.

244. 1845, N-6. **Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Red and brown obverse, slightly olive green reverse. Well struck; a couple of carbon spots on the obverse.

245. 1846, Small Date, N-8. **Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Red and brown. The left stars are flat, but the coin is otherwise well struck.

VERY SCARCE 1847 N-2 LARGE CENT

Large 7 Over Small 7 Variety



247. 1847, N-2. **Rarity-3. Choice Uncirculated.** Repunched date with large 7 over small 7, the top of the small 7 appearing just above the larger numeral. Although the repunching on the 7 is the most obvious, traces of the original 1 and 4 also clearly show. There is also noticeable recutting on AMERICA and no die break at MER, indicating early die state "a". This coin has a mostly mint red reverse and a faded mint red and brown obverse. There are a few tiny carbon spots as well as a few hairlines and marks, but the overall look of the coin is excellent. This is one of the finest examples known of this very scarce and popular variety.

248. 1847, N-24. **Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated.** Medium glossy brown, some traces of verdigris around the date, letters and devices.

VERY RARE PROOF 1847 LARGE CENT

Newcomb-42, Proof-Only Variety



249. 1847, N-42. High Rarity-6, possibly Low Rarity-7. Proof, very nearly Choice, and kept out of the that category by four small cuts on the obverse, two on the rim, one in the field near the 8th star, and another in the field between the hair and the 11th star. The coin has most of its original mint red color as well as deep mirror fields; a sharp strike, and beautiful light iridescent multicolored toning with shades of violet, blue and greenish-gold. Purchased by JJP from the Anderson Dupont sale, Part I, September 1954, Lot 898, for \$255.

The 1847 Large Cent is one of the rarest Proof dates of the 1840's, essentially equal in rarity to the 1845, and surpassed in rarity only by the 1842; Denis Loring estimates that only 12-15 Proofs are known. All Proof 1847 Large Cents are the N-42 variety and furthermore, the N-42 variety exists only in Proof.

251. 1848, N-18. High Rarity-4. Uncirculated. Mostly brown on the obverse, but with a very slight trace of red near the date and the first few stars. The reverse has considerably more red, but is still principally brown. There is some minor corrosion at the first T of States and between N and

VERY RARE PROOF 1848 N-19 CENT

Proof-Only Variety



250. 1848, N-19. Rarity-6. Proof. Deep blue and reddish-copper color on the obverse, lighter greenish-gold and brown on the reverse. One very tiny and barely noticeable imperfection, possibly "as made", above the 4th star on the edge. The surfaces are a little dull, probably from improper storage over the years, but from a mark standpoint, the coin is nearly in the Choice category. Purchased by JJP from a November 1945 Wayte Raymond sale, Lot 211, for \$76.50.

This is a Proof-only variety and all Proof 1848 Large Cents are this same variety. The 1848 is the second most common Proof Large Cent of the 1840's after the 1841. It is still very rare, however, since only an estimated 20-25 Proofs are known, according to specialist Denis Loring.

I of UNITED on the reverse. No sign of die breaks on the obverse. Newcomb states, "Obverse die has not been seen perfect but probably exists." Rare variety, very rare in this die state.

252. 1849, N-14. **Rarity-3. Uncirculated.** Mostly red and brown, but with areas of darker toning on the reverse. There are also several verdigris spots, the most notable of which are

on the lower hair curl and at the 10th and 13th stars. Early die state, just beginning to show a trace of the die breaks mentioned in Newcomb.

VERY RARE PROOF 1849 LARGE CENT

Proof-Only N-18 Variety



253. 1849, N-18. **High Rarity-6, possibly Low Rarity-7. Proof.** Deep brown color with light multicolored iridescence. A few very faint hairlines under the toning and one small nick on the nose. Softly struck on the obverse with weakness at the first three stars, hair curls below L, tip of coronet, ear, and the hair above it. Square, brilliant mirror edge and minimally mirrorlike fields under the toning. JJP purchased this from the 1949 ANA sale as

Lot 1865 for \$52 where it was offered as a duplicate from the collection of Floyd T. Starr, whose justly famous collection was eventually sold by Stack's.

In Proof, the 1849 Large Cent is very rare with only an estimated 16-20 examples known of two varieties combined, N-18 and N-30. Most Proofs are the same variety as the Pittman specimen, i.e. N-18, of which an estimated 12-15 Proofs are known. Only Proofs were struck from this die combination.

254. 1850, N-4. **Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Medium to deep brown color with light iridescent golden toning and a few traces of verdigris. JJP purchased this coin for \$0.25, date of purchase and seller unknown.

255. 1850, N-7. **Low Rarity-3. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Mostly brown, but with considerable faded mint red. A few tiny spots on the obverse.

256. 1850, N-7. **Low Rarity-3. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Faded mint red and brown, small nick on the cheek.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1850 LARGE CENT

Only 6-8 Proofs Known Of This Date



257. 1850, N-11. High Rarity-3 as variety, High Rarity-7 as Proof. Choice Proof or better. Boldly struck with deep mirror fields, almost full mint red and gold color, and a few tiny, widely scattered carbon spots. One small spot of verdigris in the denticles near the first S of STATES, another even smaller one on a reverse denticle at K-7. Tiny imperfection on the rim below 85 of the date, possibly "as made". Partial wire rim on both sides. The mint red and gold colors are particularly appealing and there is just a little faded brown color on the face and in the fields. Very flashy for a Proof 1850 Large Cent, and possibly the finest known or tied for that distinction. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, date of purchase and price unknown.

As a date, the 1850 is possibly the rarest of the so-called Late Date Proof Large Cents of the Braided Hair type. A mere 6-8 Proofs are known, all of which are the N-11 variety. (Denis Loring notes,

"1852 may be rarer. So far, none of the purported (1852) N-8's I've seen are Proof.") Mr. Loring has provided the following roster of the Proof 1850 Large Cents known to him. Of course, there may be duplication in this list and, conversely, specimens may exist that are not listed here.

1. Mid-American 9/84: 94; Floyd Starr: 640; Morgenthau 7/39: 774; Beckwith: 110; Steigerwalt 7/1894: 527.
2. Robinson Brown: 1238; Auction '82: 1527; Auction '81: 47; Lester Merkin 2/72: 74; T. James Clarke: 361; French: 733.
3. Norweb: 2978; T. James Clarke: 360; Morgan: 374.
4. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Abner Kreisberg.
5. R.E. Naftzger; Howard Newcomb II: 747.
6. A specimen seen in Europe, 9/95.
7. Sleicher; Mougey: 258.
8. Walter Webb 7/41 (per Walter Breen).

Other specimens of 1850 have been called Proof, but have not been confirmed.

258. 1850, N-11. High Rarity-3. Uncirculated. Even reddish-gold color with some iridescent highlights. A few tiny spots, possibly cleaned at one time. Ex. 1949 ANA sale, Lot 1877, where it realized \$10.



259. 1851/81, N-3. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Glossy red and brown with considerable original mint color around the date and devices. Well struck except at the denticles. The underdate is very clear at the 1, a little less so at the 5, although the bottom left loop of the 8 is clearly visible beside the ball of the 5. Scarce and popular, especially in this high grade.

260. 1851, N-6. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Dull greenish-brown surfaces.



261. 1851, N-11. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Almost full mint red. Very sharply struck with a partial wire rim. Considerable green verdigris around the devices.

262. 1851, N-12. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Dull red and brown, a few pinpoint spots. Impression of a fingerprint behind the head.

263. 1852, N-6. Low Rarity-2. Uncirculated. Late die state with a prominent cud on the obverse rim between the 10th and 12th stars. Partial wire rim on both sides. Medium glossy brown color with a few pinpoint spots.

264. 1852, N-8. Rarity-2. Very Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck on the central devices, but very weak at the border, particularly at the obverse denticles. Full blazing original mint red color, a few minor spots. Purchased from David Bullowa in 1951, price unknown.

265. 1852, N-11. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Mostly medium brown in color, but with generous splashes of mint red on the obverse, just a little red on the reverse. Several spots on both sides.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1852 N-24 CENT

Proof-Only Variety, Three Examples Known



266. 1852, N-24. Rarity-8. Proof, virtually in the Choice category. Nearly full mint red obverse with just a few spots, some light iridescent toning, and a few faint hairlines. The reverse is more deeply toned with medium iridescent shades of violet, blue and reddish-gold. The fields are very mirrorlike and there is a prominent wire rim in places on both the obverse and reverse. This is an extremely rare Proof-only variety and this specimen, previously unattributed, becomes only the third example known, the second finest of the three. It is a variety that was unknown to Howard R. Newcomb and thus not listed in his standard reference. In my opinion, this coin, and all 1852 Proof coins, may actually be Restrikes, minted later in the decade. JJP purchased the coin for \$105 in April 1956 as Lot 376 from Abe Kosoff's sale of the T.J. Clarke Collection.

Most reported Proof Large Cents of 1852 are the N-8 variety. (However, Denis Loring has commented that, "So far, none of the purported N-8's I've seen are Proof.") This N-24 variety was not recognized or published prior to the New Netherlands 51st sale in June 1958 when a specimen was first offered as Lot 1290. N-24 has the obverse of N-15 with a tiny crescent shaped dot on the neck, but a reverse that was previously unknown and unlisted in Newcomb; it is identifiable by die file marks above AMERIC. Denis Loring, who provided me with the attributions of all the Pittman Large Cents, as well as in-depth information on the rarity of the Proofs, was excited to learn of the existence of this previously "unknown" N-24. He has indicated that only the following three examples are known.

1. R.E. Naftzger; Tad: 173; New Netherlands 51st sale: 1290. The discovery coin and finest of the three.
2. Robinson Brown: 1332; Floyd Starr: 722; T.J. Clarke: 377; Morgan: 377.
3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; T.J. Clarke: 376; Morgan: 378; Beckwith: 112; Bement: 401.

267. 1853, N-5. Low Rarity-2. Almost Uncirculated. Medium brown color with considerable verdigris around the devices, most noticeable on the reverse.



268. 1853, N-13. Rarity-1. Gem Uncirculated. Full blazing original mint red color. A few tiny carbon flecks, mostly on the obverse, but not enough to remove it from the Gem category since the coin has no other marks or impairments of any kind, and still has all of its original color.



269. 1853, N-25. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. Nearly full mint red obverse, mint red and gold reverse with some irregular greenish toning. A few scattered spots, but very few marks. JJP notes that he paid \$3.75 for this coin, but does not indicate a purchase date or seller.

270. 1854, N-8. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Mostly brown, but with some faded mint red and irregular greenish-gold toning. Partial wire rim on the obverse.

VERY RARE PROOF 1854 LARGE CENT

Only 12-15 Proofs Known



271. 1854, N-12. Rarity-1 as variety, High Rarity-6 as Proof. Choice Proof. Almost full original mint red color. One spot at Liberty's nose as well as several smaller ones elsewhere. A few light hairlines, but the coin is really very flashy with deep mirror fields and outstanding color and overall appearance. Numerous die file marks below the 5 and particularly the 4 in the date near the

denticles. Partial wire rim on both sides. Purchased from Mehl's Dr. C.A. Allenburger sale on 3/23/48, Lot 1138, for \$78.75.

The 1854 is very rare in Proof, roughly on a par with most of the dates of the 1840's, and certainly much more rare than Proofs dated 1855, 1856 or 1857. Denis Loring estimates that only 12-15 1854 Proof Large Cents are known, all of them this N-12 variety.



272. 1855, Upright 5's, N-4. Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. Partially mint red obverse and almost full mint red reverse. A few spots on both sides. Weakly struck on most of the stars, particularly those just above the head, and at the tip of the coronet.

273. 1855, Upright 5's, N-4. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Red and brown obverse, mostly mint red and gold reverse. A couple of spots in the fields, but really an excellent overall appearance. Much more sharply struck than the preceding with most of the stars showing at least some detail. JJP purchased this coin for \$3.85, date and seller unknown.

274. 1855, Upright 5's, N-6. Rarity-3. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Brown with a trace of greenish-gold and iridescent toning. Weakly struck at the denticles.

275. 1855, Slanting 5's, N-9. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Early stage of the die break over Liberty's ear. This piece is mostly brown, but with some traces of faded red throughout the letters on the reverse.

276. 1855, Slanting 5's, N-9. Rarity-1. Almost Uncirculated. Dull, dark brown and tan color. Die break over the ear as on the preceding lot, but slightly more advanced.

VERY CHOICE AND RARE PROOF 1855 LARGE CENT

Only 14-16 Proofs Known Of This N-11 Variety



277. 1855, Slanting 5's, N-11. High Rarity-6. Very Choice Proof. A magnificent specimen with beautiful medium multicolored iridescent toning featuring vivid shades of blue and violet with considerable original mint red underneath. A few light and widely scattered hairlines are noted, but the coin is really very nearly in the Gem class. The strike is extremely sharp and the fields are very mirrorlike. The coin has no prominent spots on

either side and its overall appearance is superb. This is another lovely Proof coin purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Christian Allenburger Collection in March 1948. The coin appeared as Lot 1150 and realized \$32.50.

Approximately 35-50 Proof 1855 Large Cents are known, according to Denis Loring. An estimated 14-16 are this Proof-only N-11 variety; the remainder are the N-10 variety.

CHOICE PROOF 1856 LARGE CENT



278. 1856, Slanting 5, N-5. **Rarity-5. Choice Proof.** Honey gold colored obverse with just a trace of light iridescent multicolored toning and a few pinpoint spots. The reverse is more deeply toned with rich shades of greenish-gold, blue and violet. A few light hairlines are visible under the toning, but the coin is very attractive overall. This Choice Proof was purchased from the 1952 ANA

sale, Lot 2221, for \$67.50. The catalogue noted that it was from the Homer K. Downing Collection, earlier from the Henry Hines Collection.

Unlike the 1855 to which it is almost identical in terms of overall rarity, the 1856 Large Cent in Proof exists in only one variety, N-5. Furthermore, this variety was struck only in Proof. Denis Loring estimates that approximately 35-50 Proofs of this date are known.

279. 1856, Upright 5, N-6. **Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Glossy medium brown color with a trace of verdigris around the stars, wreath and reverse legend.

280. 1856, Slanting 5, N-14. **Rarity-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Mostly brown, but with some faded mint red on the obverse; green toning predominates on the reverse. Softly struck, particularly on the upper stars.

Mail Bids

Mail bids should be sent in time to be received at the office of David Akers Numismatics, Inc. in Stuart, Florida, no later than Thursday, October 16, 1997. Late bids should be sent directly to the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, 110 South Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 in care of David W. Akers.

RARE 1857 LARGE CENT



281. 1857, Large Date, N-1. **Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated.** Nearly full original mint red and gold color with just a few areas on the reverse starting to tone to brown. Generally well struck, although the coin is markedly weak at the denticles (from die deterioration), particularly on the obverse. There are a few tiny pinpoint spots, but none worth special mention; the coin is also nearly mark-free.

VERY RARE PROOF 1857 LARGE CENT

Approximately 30-35 Proofs Known Of This Variety



282. 1857, Small Date, N-3. High Rarity-5. Choice Proof. Brilliant, deep mirror fields and extraordinary strike with a sharp square edge and partial wire rim. The coin is mostly a light golden color with just a hint of multi-colored iridescence near the border. There is a small planchet imperfection in the obverse field midway between the tip of Liberty's chin and the 2nd star. The fields have some very light hairlines as well as a few small carbon spots, including one on the 5 and one in the

field by the lowest hair curl at the back of the neck. There is a very high wire rim between K-1 and K-6 on the obverse and the corresponding position on the reverse. Purchased from a November 1945 Wayte Raymond sale, Lot 227, for \$45.50.

This was the final year of Large Cent production and it is also the year in which the most Proofs were struck. Denis Loring estimates that 55-75 Proof 1857 Large Cents exist, this total fairly evenly divided between the N-3 and N-5 varieties, both of which exist only in Proof.

283. 1857, Small Date, N-4. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Red and brown obverse, mostly red and gold reverse with a touch of

violet iridescence. Weakly struck at the denticles and on the obverse stars.

U.S. SMALL CENTS

284. 1857, Flying Eagle. Uncirculated. Sharply struck, but lightly burnished in an attempt to make it look like a Proof. The coin now has light iridescent multicolored toning and a number of hairlines in the fields. Prominently repunched date, this repunching visible on all four numerals but most evident on the 5 and, to a slightly lesser extent, on the 8. Purchased by JJP as a Proof and often displayed with his 1857 Proof set.

285. 1858, Flying Eagle, Small Letters. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Light golden toning with some minor carbon spotting. Lightly lacquered. Faint doubling on the date.

286. A pair of scarce Indian Head Cents dated 1866 and 1869. The 1866 grades Very Fine to Extremely Fine with a full, sharp LIBERTY. It has several noticeable scratches on the face and is a medium brown color with a few spots. The 1869 grades Extremely Fine with a sharp LIBERTY and is

the variety that, in a previous time, was called "1869/8". It is now recognized that this "overdate" is bogus and is merely a repunched 9 variety. However, as a variety, it still commands a substantial premium over a regular 1869, perhaps out of respect for tradition more than anything else. This coin has a nice even brown color with just a trace of verdigris. Two pieces.

287. 1873, Closed 3, Proof. Light golden toning with iridescent highlights and a few tiny carbon spots. Q. David Bowers estimates a mintage of 1,500-2,000 Proofs. JJP purchased this coin on 2/12/61 from a French's sale as Lot 872 for \$43.

288. 1873, Closed 3, Proof. 500+ Proofs minted. Beautiful golden color, brilliant mirror fields and just a few tiny carbon flecks, mostly confined to the obverse. Purchased from a Jim Charlton sale in 5/64 as Lot 177 for \$230.

289. **1877, Good to Very Good.** Medium brown color, a touch of verdigris on the reverse. Weakly struck at the left obverse, as is often the case. This is the key date in the Indian Head Cent series with only 852,500 pieces struck. Purchased from George Bauer's sale XIV, Lot 908, for \$4.40.

290. A pair of **Choice Uncirculated** Indian Head Cents. The first is dated **1879** and has beautiful reddish-gold color with light violet toning. The second piece is dated **1899** and is red and brown with some violet highlights. Two pieces.

291. **1897, Proof.** 1,938 Proofs struck. Reddish-gold color with beautiful violet toning. Pinpoint carbon spots on both sides. Purchased by JJP for \$20 as Lot 39 from the Edwin Hydeman sale of 3/61 conducted by Abe Kosoff.

292. **1908-S, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Beautiful original mint red and gold color. Several tiny spots and a few insignificant marks. Outstanding color and luster. The first branch mint U.S. Cent and long regarded as one of the key issues in the series. Only 1,115,000 were struck.

293. A group of three original **Uncirculated** Lincoln Cents including **1909 V.D.B.**, **1909**, and **1911**. All three of the coins have most of their original mint color and the 1909 and 1911 also have attractive multicolored toning. The 1911 is weakly struck on the obverse border above the motto. All three pieces are solidly in the Choice category. Three pieces.



294. **1909-S V.D.B., Choice Uncirculated.** A lustrous, attractive specimen with beautiful greenish-gold color and a few multicolored highlights. The lowest mintage date in this popular series with only 484,000 pieces struck.

295. **1909-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Similar in overall appearance to the 1909-S V.D.B. just offered. A few tiny spots on the reverse, but the coin has full mint luster and most of its original mint red and gold color.

296. A pair of Philadelphia Mint Lincoln Cents. The first is dated **1910** and grades **Gem Uncirculated** with full original mint red color and outstanding luster. The coin has just a few tiny spots on the obverse, but the reverse is nearly flawless. The second coin in this lot is dated **1912** and grades **Gem Uncirculated** with superbly lustrous surfaces and most of its original mint red color. It is very weakly struck at the border. Two pieces.

297. **1910-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Superb luster and beautiful reddish-gold color. One of JJP's earliest purchases. Obtained 7/20/43 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$0.65.

298. **1911-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Fully lustrous with all of its original mint red color. Weakly struck at the border, as often seen on this issue. Another early purchase, again from New Netherlands Coin Co. on 8/25/43 for \$1.75.

299. **1911-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Lustrous with beautiful reddish-gold color. Just a few faint hairlines. Rather scarce in this condition. Purchased 9/27/43 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$3.75.

300. **1912-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Nearly full original mint red with just a trace of light violet and reddish-gold toning. Purchased 9/27/43 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$0.90.

301. **1912-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Beautiful reddish-gold color and full mint luster. Only a few tiny spots and virtually no marks. Small rim imperfection "as made" above RU in TRUST. Acquired 9/27/43 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$2.25.

302. A pair of Lincoln Cents including **1913, Choice Uncirculated**, full mint red, obverse fingerprint; and **1916, Choice Uncirculated**, pale golden obverse, slightly deeper reddish-gold reverse. Scratch in reverse field to the left of O in ONE. Two pieces.

303. **1913-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and lustrous with light coppery-gold color and a few iridescent highlights.

304. **1913-S, Uncirculated.** Light golden color with a few areas of darker reddish-gold, including one on Lincoln's face. Small verdigris spot at TY in LIBERTY. Sharply struck and lustrous.

305. **1914, Very Choice Uncirculated**, a virtual Gem. Beautiful reddish-gold color and only a couple of small marks in the fields.

306. **1914-D, Almost Uncirculated.** Medium golden brown obverse, gold and violet toned reverse. Lightly cleaned at one time leaving the coin with light to moderate hairlines. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 10/19/43, for \$5.25.



307. **1914-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Well struck and lustrous with beautiful golden brown color highlighted with a trace of violet and blue. JJP paid New Netherlands Coin Co. \$4.75 for this coin on 10/19/43.

308. **1915, Very Choice Uncirculated.** if not an actual Gem. Full mint luster and original mint red color. Weakly struck at the borders, especially above the mottos on both sides. Although not a particularly scarce date, the 1915 is certainly not easy to find this choice. Purchased for \$2.75 from New Netherlands Coin Co. on 10/19/43.

309. **1915-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Full mint red color. A few spots, somewhat larger and more prominent on the reverse than on the obverse. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co. on 8/4/43 for \$1.25.

310. **1915-S, Choice Uncirculated.** A lustrous, beautiful specimen with virtually no marks or spots and very attractive reddish-gold toning. Purchased for \$2.75 from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/25/43.

311. **1916-D, Uncirculated.** Beautiful reddish-gold color. Some minor spots on the obverse, more prominent ones on the reverse. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/4/43, for \$1.25.

312. **1916-S, Choice Uncirculated.** A highly lustrous specimen with superb medium reddish-gold color. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/4/43, for \$1.85.

313. A group of three Philadelphia Mint Lincoln Cents including **1917**, **1918**, and **1919**. The **1917** grades **Choice Uncirculated**, the **1918** and **1919** grade **Uncirculated**. All have considerable original mint color. The 1918 and 1919 have multicolored toning on the reverse. Three pieces.

314. **1917-D, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Lustrous and well struck with full original mint red color and just a few pinpoint spots. This date is surprisingly scarce in this grade. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/4/43, for \$1.

315. A pair of Lincoln Cents including **1917-S, Uncirculated**, red and brown with a trace of light violet toning. A couple of cuts on the reverse as well as a few tiny carbon spots; and **1928-D, Uncirculated**, nearly full mint red, fingerprint in right obverse field. Two pieces.

316. **1918-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Medium reddish-gold color with a trace of violet toning on Lincoln's hair. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/4/43, for \$1.75.

317. **1918-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Light red and gold toning. Softly struck at the 8 of the date and at the reverse border. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 10/19/43, for \$2.75.

318. A pair of Lincoln Cents including **1919-D, Uncirculated**, lustrous with attractive light reddish-gold toning. Verdigris spot on the right side of wreath; and **1920, Choice Uncirculated** or better. One tiny nick on the cheek. Well struck and lustrous, light golden color highlighted with deeper reddish-gold and violet. Two pieces.

319. **1919-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Lovely reddish-gold toning. Very sharply struck. A few marks on the reverse, but the obverse is very clean.

320. **1920-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Full mint luster and beautiful light to medium reddish-gold toning with a few violet highlights. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 10/19/43, for \$1.40.



321. **1920-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Light reddish-gold toning. A few pinpoint carbon spots on the obverse as well as a few trivial marks. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/25/43, for \$2.35.

322. **1921, Very Choice Uncirculated**, despite a few pinpoint carbon spots. Superb luster and original mint color. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 7/20/43, for \$0.35.

323. **1921-S, Uncirculated.** An original coin with light reddish-gold toning and deeper violet shades on the reverse. Softly struck in places, as is generally the case with this issue. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 10/19/43, for \$5.00.

324. **1922-D, Uncirculated.** This coin has full luster and original mint red color and is downgraded from a higher grade only because of some carbon on both sides. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 7/20/43, for \$1.50.

325. A pair of Uncirculated Lincoln Cents. The first is dated **1923** and grades **Choice Uncirculated** with full mint luster and a trace of reddish-gold toning. The second coin is dated **1924** and grades **Choice Uncirculated** with full original mint red color. There is one tiny depression in the field below the second T in TRUST. Two pieces.

326. **1923-S, Uncirculated.** Lustrous reddish-gold color. Numerous carbon spots on both sides. Above average strike for this often very weak issue. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 10/19/43, for \$5.00.

327. **1924-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with original mint luster and extremely attractive light to medium multicolored toning. The obverse is particularly attractive with beautiful shades of violet and blue. There are, however, a few marks on Lincoln's coat as well as one small verdigris spot below the 2 in the date.

328. **1924-S, Uncirculated.** Beautiful sunset toning with lovely shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue. Unfortunately, the coin is kept from a significantly higher grade by a number of carbon spots.

329. A group of four Lincoln Cents including **1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928**. All of the coins grade **Choice Uncirculated** and have most of their full original mint color remaining. Four pieces.

330. **1925-D, Uncirculated.** Almost full original mint red color, but the coin is softly struck in places. It has excellent luster and only a few trivial spots. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/25/43, for \$1.40.

331. **1925-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Medium reddish-gold and violet obverse, more deeply toned reverse, scrape on Lincoln's jaw; and **1940, Choice Proof.** Several obverse spots. Two pieces.

332. **1926-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Attractive autumn leaves toning, a few small spots. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/25/43, for \$1.15.

333. **1926-S, Uncirculated.** Light golden color. Obverse spots, several scrapes on reverse.

334. **1927-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Light reddish-gold obverse, more deeply toned reverse with deep violet shades near the border. Planchet imperfection on the reverse near the rim. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 8/25/43, for \$1.75.

335. **1927-S, Uncirculated.** Light golden toning. A few spots.

336. **1928-S, Uncirculated.** Lustrous with most of its original mint red color. Purchased from New Netherlands Coin Co., 7/20/43, for \$1.80.

337. A pair of Lincoln Cents including **1929-D and 1929-S**. Both coins are **Choice Uncirculated** and have full mint luster in addition to nearly all of their original mint red color. Two pieces.

338. A group of three Lincoln Cents including **1930, 1931, and 1932**. All three coins grade **Choice Uncirculated** or better and have full original mint luster and color. Three pieces.

339. **1930-D and 1930-S, both Choice Uncirculated** or better with nearly all of their original mint luster and color. Two pieces.

340. **1931-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Full mint red, a few spots on the reverse.

341. **1931-S, Choice Uncirculated**, despite a small nick on Lincoln's cheek. Full mint luster and color.

342. A group of three Lincoln Cents including **1932-D, 1933, and 1933-D**. All three coins are **Choice Uncirculated** or better and have full original mint red color. Three pieces.

343. A group of 55 Lincoln Cents from **1934 to 1952**, nearly complete, missing only the 1952-S. The Philadelphia Mint coins from 1937 to 1942 are all Choice Proofs with various states of toning. The other coins are all Uncirculated pieces, most of them with their full original mint color. The steel Cents of 1943 have considerable rust around the edges. With the exception of the steel Cents, all of the coins are Choice Uncirculated or better and many of them are Gems. 55 pieces.

U.S. TWO CENT PIECES

344. **1864, Large Motto, Almost Uncirculated.** Red and brown; and **1865, Extremely Fine.** Medium brown, planchet defects near the date. Two pieces.

345. **1866, Choice Proof.** 725+ Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields, bold strike. Beautiful honey gold and reddish-copper toning with some violet highlights. A few tiny pinpoint carbon spots. JJP purchased this coin from Barney Bluestone's 91st sale, 2/46, Lot 438, for \$10.50.

346. **1867, Choice Proof.** 625+ Proofs minted. Hazy honey gold color. Extremely sharp strike, no spots or impairments. The haze undoubtedly comes from the manner in which the coin was stored over the years.



347. **1869, Very Choice Proof.** 600+ Proofs minted. Beautiful light golden surfaces that have just a slight haze and a few pinpoint carbon spots. Purchased by JJP from the Edwin Hydeman sale (Kosoff, March 1961) as Lot 175 for \$40.

348. **1870, Proof.** 1000+ Proofs minted. Brilliant mirror fields, light hazy reddish-gold toning. Some pinpoint spots on the reverse and several larger ones on the obverse. Ex. Howard E. Egolf sale (Stack's, May 1961), Lot 364, where it realized \$38.

349. **1871, Proof.** 960+ Proofs minted. Light reddish-gold color with a few pinpoint spots. Ex. Egolf sale, Lot 365, where it realized \$52.

350. **1872, Choice Proof.** 950+ Proofs minted. A lovely original coin with rich reddish-gold color highlighted with a splash of violet. A few trivial pinpoint carbon spots. JJP purchased this from a Hans Schulman sale, 12/73, Lot 291, for \$175.



351. **1873, Closed 3, Proof.** An estimated 600 Proofs minted. Medium violet, blue and reddish-gold obverse toning, lighter more iridescent shades on the reverse. Small spot and scrape at the first S in STATES on the reverse. Purchased from French's 2/12/61 sale, Lot 868, for \$210.

U.S. NICKEL THREE CENT PIECES

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1865 NICKEL THREE CENTS



352. **1865, Very Choice Proof.** 500+ Proofs minted. Brilliant mirror fields and beautiful light iridescent toning. A few minor spots as well as one larger one at C of AMERICA. There is also a tiny planchet imperfection, "as made", on the cheek. Three tiny, more or less parallel, die scratches run from denticles to ST and A of STATES. This is the variety, a common one, with the date distinctly double punched. JJP notes that he paid \$225 for this piece, but no other information is available.

353. **1867, Proof.** 625+ Proofs minted. Slightly dull surfaces from being stored in a coin envelope for years, but only a few pinpoint spots and no hairlines or impairments. Just a trace of light golden toning. Purchased from a Hans Schulman sale, 12/73, Lot 295, for \$65.

354. **1869, Proof.** 600+ Proofs minted. Dull reddish-gold toning. Purchased at Mike Kolman's July 1961 auction for \$23.

355. **1870, Proof.** 1000+ Proofs minted. Slightly hazy reddish-gold toning. Same source as the previous lot, i.e. a July 1961 Mike Kolman sale, where it realized \$23.

356. **1872, Choice Proof.** 950+ Proofs minted. Light golden toning. Purchased for \$29 from Empire Coin Co. on 3/12/62.

357. **1873, Closed 3, Proof.** 1,100+ Proofs minted. Light blue, violet and gold toning. Purchased by JJP for \$15.50 as Lot 867 from French's 2/12/61 sale.

358. **1873, Closed 3, Choice Proof.** 1,100+ Proofs minted. Just a hint of pale golden toning. Lint mark along jaw line. JJP paid \$4.50 for this coin, apparently at an auction since he noted that it had an estimate of \$7.50.



359. **1886, Choice Proof.** 4,290 Proofs minted. Exceptional brilliance and luster, just a few very light hairlines. Purchased as Lot 480 from a Mike Kolman sale, July 1961, for \$18.50.

360. **1887/6, Proof.** 2,960 Proofs minted in 1887, most of them this overdate. Golden toning. No prominent hairlines or spots, but the surfaces do not have much luster from improper storage. Purchased by JJP from Paramount's Long Beach sale in February 1974, Lot 89, for \$200.

U.S. NICKEL FIVE CENT PIECES

361. **1868, Choice Proof.** 600+ Proofs minted. Slightly hazy light golden toning. Purchased from a Jim Charlton sale, 5/25/64, for \$53.



362. **1873, Closed 3, Choice Proof.** 1,100+ Proofs minted. Fully brilliant and deeply mirrorlike with just a whisper of light golden toning. JJP purchased this in December 1948 from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, Lot 211, for \$5.50.

363. **1873, Closed 3, Proof.** 1,100+ Proofs minted. Hazy golden toning with just a touch of iridescence. Planchet lamination near the ball of the 5, and a few tiny pinpoint spots. Purchased at a French's auction, 2/12/61, for \$20.

364. **1880, Proof.** 3,955 Proofs minted. Dull golden toning, a few faint hairlines. Purchased from French's 10/61 sale, Lot 635, for \$36.50.

365. **1883, Shield, Choice Proof.** 5,419 Proofs minted. Light reddish-gold toning. JJP purchased this coin for \$9, date and seller unknown.



366. **1883, Liberty Head, No CENTS, Choice Proof.** 5,219 Proofs minted. Light reddish-gold toning. A few light hairlines including several at the 4th and 5th stars. JJP purchased this coin for \$11.75, but his records do not indicate the seller or the year of purchase.



367. **1883, Liberty Head, With CENTS, Gem Proof.** 6,783 Proofs minted. A lovely specimen with light reddish-gold toning. Purchased for \$12, date and seller unknown.

368. **1898, Very Choice Proof.** 1,795 Proofs minted. Golden toning with a touch of light multicolored iridescence. Purchased for \$26 from Mike Kolman's 7/27/61 sale, Lot 535.

369. **1907, Gem Proof.** 1,475 Proofs minted. Fully brilliant with just a trace of light reddish-gold toning. One tiny spot in the field near the 3rd star. The reverse is virtually flawless and especially beautiful.



370. **1909, Gem Proof.** 4,763 Proofs minted. A lustrous specimen with gorgeous reddish-gold toning and pale blue-violet highlights. Acquired from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale, Lot 544, for \$19.



371. **1912, Gem Proof.** 2,145 Proofs minted. Beautiful pale blue and reddish-gold toning. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim on both sides.

372. A group of four Buffalo Nickels including three **1913 Type I** specimens and a fourth coin dated **1938-D**. One 1913 is a dull Almost Uncirculated, the other two are Uncirculated with attractive toning. The 1938-D is Gem Uncirculated. The two Mint State 1913 coins have minor edge corrosion. Four pieces.

PROOF 1915 NICKEL



373. **1915, Very Choice Proof.** 1,050 Proofs minted. Brilliant fields and just a hint of light golden toning. Minor discoloration on the mirror edge, but no spots, hairlines or impairments on the surfaces of the coin. Very prominent high wire rim on the right reverse.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1918-D NICKEL



374. **1918-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with full horn and well defined tail. A highly lustrous, original coin with beautiful light iridescent toning, mostly reddish-gold with hints of blue and violet. There are a few minor spots on the obverse keeping this coin from a higher grade. Purchased from Stack's 4/52 sale, Lot 209, for \$31.

LOVELY 1919-S BUFFALO NICKEL



HIGH GRADE 1920-S NICKEL



375. 1919-S, Choice Uncirculated or better. Superb luster and beautiful medium multicolored toning, especially intense near the borders. Some minor spotting on the rim from having been in an album. There is also one tiny green spot at K-5 on the obverse. Strike is about average for a 1919-S Nickel; there is some weakness at the top of the letters of LIBERTY, and the Buffalo's horn, head and tail are not entirely full. Purchased as Lot 211 from Stack's 4/52 sale for \$38.

376. 1920-S, Choice Uncirculated. Very sharply struck. Highly lustrous surfaces with beautiful light to medium multicolored iridescent toning. There is some minor copper-nickel chloride salt on the edge, but the rims and fields have not been affected. Obtained from the same Stack's 4/52 sale as the 1918-D and 1919-S. This coin was Lot 213 and realized \$36.

The Buffalo Nickels which follow were stored in a Wayte Raymond holder and were most likely never removed or closely examined for decades. Unfortunately, the alloy in the coins has reacted with the paper to form a chemical compound, copper-nickel chloride, on the edges of the coins. This varies from coin to coin from fairly minor to very severe. In most cases, it is confined strictly to the edges, but on some coins it has encroached into the rims and even the fields. The chloride salt was determined to be the compound through analysis by scanning electron microscopy. This compound is generally soluble in water, particularly deionized water. However, attempting to dissolve the chloride salt, while possibly removing the ugly green spots, will usually leave dark spots in their place, and even serious pitting on the coins. Therefore, we have not attempted to remove the spots, and offer the coins strictly on an "as is" basis. We cannot guarantee that the buyer will be able to successfully remove the chloride salt or that these coins will be improved in any way by the attempt. They may, in fact, be made worse. Therefore, all of the following Buffalo Nickels are sold "as is" with no returns.

377. A group of three Buffalo Nickels including 1913-D Type I, 1913-S Type I, and 1913 Type II. All of the coins are Uncirculated with light golden toning, but they also have light to moderate chloride salt spots on the edges.

378. 1913-D Type II, Uncirculated. Lustrous with superb reddish gold toning. One very large spot on the edge in addition to several smaller ones.

379. 1913-S Type II, Uncirculated. Light golden toning. Moderately heavy chloride salt corrosion around the edge.

380. A group of four Uncirculated Buffalo Nickels from the Philadelphia Mint including 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917. All of the coins are lustrous, original coins with various degrees of golden toning. Unfortunately, they all have light to moderate chloride salt around the edges. The 1917 has the least, but the others are quite heavily spotted.

381. **1914-D, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with medium reddish-gold toning. Very heavy chloride salt along the edge, rims, and even encroaching into the fields of the coin. Purchased from Walter Webb's 10/44 sale, Lot 1157, for \$6.50.

382. **1914-S, Uncirculated.** Very heavy chloride salt around the edge and even into the fields of the coin. This is a real shame because without the chloride salt, the coin would be spectacular, since it is well struck and has superb luster and no marks or carbon spots.

383. **1915-D, Uncirculated.** Light golden toning. Moderate chloride salt on the edge.

384. **1915-S, Uncirculated.** Well struck and lustrous with beautiful light reddish-gold toning. Moderate to heavy chloride salt around the edge with some spots encroaching into the fields of the coin.

385. **1916-D, Uncirculated.** Lustrous with beautiful light golden toning. Heavy chloride salt corrosion around the edge.

386. **1916-S, Uncirculated.** Amazing luster and beautiful light reddish-gold toning. Unfortunately, this coin has very heavy chloride salt all around the edge and into the fields of the coin.

387. **1917-D, Uncirculated.** Somewhat weakly struck on the hair braid and Buffalo's shoulder. Beautiful light golden toning. Moderately heavy chloride salt around the edge.

388. **1917-S, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with excellent luster and beautiful light reddish-gold toning. Moderate chloride salt on the edge.

389. A group of four Philadelphia Mint Buffalo Nickels including **1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921**. All of the coins are **Uncirculated** with lustrous surfaces and light to medium natural gold or reddish-gold toning. All of the coins have moderate to heavy chloride salt around the edges.

390. **1920-D, Uncirculated.** Fully lustrous with just a trace of light golden toning. Light chloride salt corrosion around the edge.

391. **1923-S, Uncirculated.** A beautiful, lustrous specimen with light reddish-gold toning. Above average strike for the issue. Moderate chloride salt corrosion on the edge. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 94th sale, 9/46, Lot 719, for \$18.

392. **1924-D, Uncirculated.** Frosty and lustrous. Light golden toning. One large chloride salt spot on the edge and a couple of smaller ones. Less corrosion than on most of the pieces in this group. Purchased as Lot 722 from Barney Bluestone's 94th sale, 9/46, for \$19.

393. **1924-S, Uncirculated.** A very lustrous specimen with attractive light reddish-gold toning. One area of very heavy chloride salt corrosion above the Indian's head, mostly on the edge, but also barely over the rim and into the field. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 94th sale, 9/46, Lot 721, for \$21.50.

394. **1925-D, Uncirculated.** Superb luster and magnificent medium reddish-gold toning. Unfortunately, this coin has especially heavy chloride salt corrosion on the edge and over the rims into the fields. JJP purchased this coin from Wayte Raymond in 1944 for \$2.

395. **1925-S, Uncirculated.** Excellent luster and beautiful light reddish-gold toning. The chloride salt corrosion on the edge is moderate to heavy; there is also some corrosion on the rim and into the fields as well. Purchased for \$26.50 from Barney Bluestone's 94th sale, 9/46, Lot 723.

396. **1927-D, Uncirculated.** Lustrous with beautiful light to medium reddish-gold toning. Unfortunately, this coin has the heaviest chloride salt encrustation so far. The entire edge is covered and the compound has migrated over into the fields.

397. A group of twenty-one (21) Buffalo Nickels, all with light to heavy chloride salt corrosion around the edges from improper storage in a Wayte Raymond album. All of the coins are **Uncirculated** with varying degrees of light gold or reddish-gold toning. The dates in this group are as follows: **1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1926-D, weak strike, 1927, 1928, 1928-D, 1928-S, 1929, 1929-D, weak strike, 1929-S, 1930, 1930-S, 1931-S, 1934, 1934-D, 1935, 1935-D, 1936-D, and 1936-S.** 21 pieces.

END OF SESSION ONE

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One

Session Two

Lots 398-831

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

6:00 P.M. Sharp

U.S. SILVER THREE CENT PIECES

398. **1851, Choice Uncirculated.** A lustrous, satiny specimen with a sharp strike and beautiful light reddish-gold toning. Many die striations from die polishing are evident in the obverse field but few, if any, on the reverse. There are some irregularities near the rim. There is also one very prominent lint mark at the top of the reverse and one long fine hairline above the date. There is noticeable doubling of the entire legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the obverse. JJP's envelope, in which this coin was stored, notes, "Brilliant Proof, extremely rare in this condition." It is fairly obvious, however, that this is a business strike and not a Proof. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Christian Allenburger Collection, 3/23/48, Lot 1102, for \$6.20. Even Mehl in his description called it a, "Brilliant semi-proof", rather than a Proof.

399. **1851, Uncirculated.** Heavy tarnish type toning on both sides, but relatively few marks or abrasions. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$1.25.

400. **1851-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Heavy tarnish type toning as well as a trace of multicolored iridescence. Beneath the toning, the surfaces appear to be partially prooflike. Purchased from Walter Webb's 12/44 sale, Lot 1081, for \$4.25.

401. **1852, Uncirculated.** Very heavy tarnish toning. It is virtually impossible to see the surfaces under this type of toning, but they do not appear to have any serious marks. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$1.50.

402. **1853, Uncirculated.** Deep reddish-brown tarnish toning on the obverse, lighter gray and gold with some tarnish on the reverse. The surfaces appear to be clean, but it is really very difficult to tell with this type of toning. Overall, however, this coin is more attractive than any of the preceding. Purchased by JJP from New Netherland's 17th sale, 5/44, Lot 747, for \$1.60.

VERY RARE PROOF 1854 SILVER THREE CENTS



403. 1854, Choice Proof. Boldly struck with deep mirror fields and superb medium reddish-gold toning. The fields have a few light hairlines, but no serious marks, and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. Tiny planchet imperfection above and to the left of the 4 in the date. Prominent die file marks at the rim above TED in UNITED, lesser ones from the 4 in the date into the field. No trace of knob or extra 5 between 8 and 5 in the date. Along with many other great Proof coins in the Pittman Collection, this piece was purchased from the Allenburger sale (Mehl, 3/48), Lot 1137, for \$36.

The exact mintage of the 1854 Silver Three Cent piece in Proof is not known. Most, if not all, were issued in copper-silver Proof sets, but even though several complete original 1854 Proof sets survived intact into the early 20th Century (cf. the Stickney, D. Wilson, and Mougey Collections), undoubtedly all have been broken up by now. It is possible that as many as 30-40 Proof sets were issued in 1854, plus additional small quantities of Silver Dollars and Half Cents. However, today, it is possible to account for only 15-20 of the Three Cent pieces.



404. 1854, Uncirculated, perhaps even Choice. A well struck, lustrous, satiny coin with superb medium multicolored toning. One die break runs from the rim past the left side of the O in OF to a star outline; another runs from the rim past the right side of the M in AMERICA to one of the star outlines. JJP purchased this coin on 5/23/44 from the New Netherlands 17th sale, Lot 748, for \$3.75.

CHOICE PROOF 1855 THREE CENT PIECE



405. 1855, Choice Proof. Very brilliant with lustrous, mirror fields and attractive, light hazy golden toning highlighted with a trace of blue, violet and russet. Just a few faint and widely scattered hairlines. Die file marks near ES O in STATES OF. The date is very prominently double punched with the original numerals punched too low before the mistake was corrected and the date punched into the proper position. The bottoms of both 5's in the date are slightly weak. The Mint had problems with its silver Proofs of this year. The date on the Proof Dime is also prominently double punched, and for the Half Dollar, some of the Proofs are overdates, 1855/4. All of these situations, while not unheard of, are somewhat unusual for Proofs since, typically, more care was taken to strike Proof coins. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection, 6/47, Lot 1772, for \$78.50.

Although certainly rare, the 1855 Silver Three Cent piece is not nearly as rare in Proof as the 1854. At least 30-35 Proofs are known, perhaps even a few more. It seems likely that all were issued in copper-silver Proof sets of the year, which likely numbered in the 50-60 set range. Some of these sets survived intact into the 20th Century, but I am not aware of an original 1855 Proof set selling in the past 70 or more years. Do any of them still exist?

RARE AND UNDERRATED PROOF 1856 SILVER THREE CENTS



406. 1856, Very Choice Proof, so choice, in fact, that it could reasonably be called a Gem. The coin has absolutely superb multicolored toning, light reddish-gold in the center and deeper shades of blue and violet at the border. The obverse has numerous die polishing striations in the fields running horizontally, the reverse has a few scattered ones. Weakly struck on several of the stars and STATES OF in the obverse legend. Rare and underrated in comparison to the 1855 Proof. In my experience, it is at least as rare as the 1855, perhaps even a bit more rare. Only 30-35 Proof 1856 Silver Three Cent pieces are known.

There is a small unfinished area on the reverse from the tip of the last leaf in the sprig above the Roman numeral III to the top of the right serif on the third upright. This unfinished area also connects the same right serif to the large ball to its right. The arrowheads below the III are doubled left, especially prominently on the top arrow. There is also noticeable recutting on both the upper and lower left serifs of the middle upright of the Roman numeral III. The area around the star at K-5 is rough and unfinished. This reverse die was later used to strike the Proofs of 1857, 1858 and 1859, as well as those of 1863 and some later issues. It was used only for Proofs and is diagnostic, i.e. all Proofs of these years have this reverse.

RARE PROOF 1857 SILVER THREE CENTS



407. 1857, Very Choice Proof. Boldly struck with superb medium multicolored toning. Numerous die striations on the obverse (from die polishing) run diagonally from upper left to lower right. There is one small lint mark from the outside loop of the 5 to the rim. There is also a tiny planchet imperfection, "as made", on the second and third uprights of the Roman numeral III. Like the 1856, to which it is rather similar, although not quite as attractively toned, this coin is of sufficiently high quality that it could reasonably be termed a Gem. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1856. On this issue, however, there is now also a rough area around the star at K-6. In Proof, the 1857 is a bit less rare than either the 1855 or 1856 with possibly 40-50 Proofs known. Obtained from Barney Bluestone's 91st sale, 2/46, for \$16.75.



408. **1858, Choice Proof.** Lightly striated planchet from die polishing, the striations oriented slightly clockwise above horizontal. Beautiful medium multicolored toning. The reverse is particularly attractive with superb iridescent blue, greenish-gold and violet toning. Very noticeable doubling on most of the letters of the obverse legend. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1856 and 1857, same die state as the 1857. Much less rare than any of the preceding Proofs, but still highly desirable. Several hundred were minted and at least 125-150 still exist. Purchased by JJP from the famous Samuel W. Wolfson sale, Part II (Stack's, May 1963), as Lot 294 for \$290.

409. **1860, Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. Beautiful multicolored iridescent toning. Some scratches on the obverse. Obtained from French's 2/12/61 sale as Lot 632 for \$37.

410. **1861, Choice Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. Superb iridescent multicolored toning. A few light hairlines. Obtained privately from Abe Kosoff in July 1961 for \$32.50.

411. **1862, Proof,** nearly Choice with only a few light hairlines. 550 Proofs minted. Beautiful light to medium multicolored iridescent toning, mostly about the periphery. Obtained as Lot 634 from French's 2/12/61 sale for \$26.



412. **1863, Very Choice Proof.** 460 Proofs minted. Superb medium multicolored iridescent toning and only a few very faint hairlines. This coin is so attractive that many, if not most, viewers will consider it to be a Gem. Struck using the same reverse die that was first used in 1856, the rough areas around stars that appeared in 1857 and 1858 now almost gone from die lapping. Like several other Proofs of this series, this coin was purchased by JJP from French's 2/12/61 sale where it was sold as Lot 635 for \$97.50.

FLAWLESS MINT STATE 1864 SILVER THREE CENTS



413. **1864, Gem Uncirculated.** An utterly superb specimen that is virtually flawless and "as struck". It is very sharply struck with magnificent medium multicolored toning, a gorgeous blend of blue, greenish-gold and russet. The surfaces are frosty with radiant luster and signs of prominent clash marks around the central star. The third upright of the Roman numeral III has some evidence of die rust. This is a spectacular quality coin that certainly has to rank as one of the finest known business strikes of this very scarce, low mintage date. Much more rare as a business strike than as a Proof. Purchased 10/47 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, Lot 147, for \$40.50, there described as "Proof".

414. **1865, Choice Proof.** 500 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields and beautiful mottled russet, greenish-gold, blue and violet toning. Lint mark above and between the 6 and 5 in the date. One tiny hairline die break runs from the rim into the field to the left of the 1. Purchased from French's 2/12/61 sale, Lot 637, for \$87.50.



415. **1866, Gem Proof.** 725 Proofs minted. A magnificent specimen with superb medium multicolored toning, a combination of gold, russet, violet and blue-green. Some raised die polishing lines in the obverse fields run more or less horizontally, and there are tiny spikes from the tips of star-points 1 and 3 (as numbered clockwise from the vertical). The appearance of this coin, particularly the obverse, is exceptional. From the same French's sale as a number of other Proof Silver Three Cent pieces offered here, this as Lot 638 for \$47.50.



416. **1867, Choice Proof.** 625 Proofs minted. Beautiful light to medium multicolored iridescent toning, mostly blue-green and gold with a trace of russet. Formerly Lot 639 from French's 2/12/61 sale where it realized \$17.50.



417. **1868, Very Choice Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Superb medium iridescent multicolored toning, similar shades to the preceding. Struck from the reverse of 1856, although die lapping has made the distinguishing unfinished area less evident. Purchased by JJP as Lot 640 from French's sale of 2/12/61 for \$48.50.



418. **1869, Gem Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Very deep mirror fields and absolutely superb medium to deep multicolored iridescent toning with beautiful shades of violet, blue and greenish-gold. The surfaces have only a few trivial hairlines, all of which are almost entirely concealed by the toning. Purchased by JJP in 2/12/61 from a French's sale, Lot 641, for \$48.50.

419. **1870, Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. Beautiful medium multicolored iridescent toning with considerable blue, greenish-gold and a touch of violet and russet. Light hairlines in the obverse field. Struck from the same reverse die as some earlier Proofs with the tell-tale unfinished area from the tip of the last leaf to the right serif of the third standard of the Roman numeral and the prominently doubled top arrowhead. The middle upright of III also has recutting on the left upper and lower serifs. Acquired at French's 2/12/61 sale, Lot 642, for \$33.50.

420. **1871, Proof.** 960 Proofs minted. Pale russet and blue toning. A few small obverse spots without which the coin would be in the Choice category. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1870, but die lapping has made the unfinished areas barely visible. Formerly Lot 643 of French's 2/12/61 sale where JJP purchased a number of nice Proof Silver Three Cent pieces. This coin realized \$38.50.

RARE MINT STATE 1872 SILVER THREE CENTS



421. **1872, Very Choice Uncirculated.** A magnificent, fully prooflike specimen with superb medium multicolored toning, a warm reddish-gold in the center blending first to violet then to blue and greenish-gold at the border. Softly struck on the shield in the center of the star and on some of the letters of the legend, as well as the stars on the reverse. There are a few tiny marks on the rims and in the fields, but the coin is really quite close to the Gem category. This is the rarest date in Mint State after 1858 and business strikes are decidedly more rare than Proofs. Purchased by JJP as a Proof for \$55 from the Edwin Hydeman sale conducted by Abe Kosoff in March 1961.



422. **1873, Closed 3, Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Light to medium multicolored toning, a blend of blue, greenish-gold and russet with some deeper shades on the reverse. Light marks and abrasions in the fields as well as a few spots. Purchased as Lot 645 from French's 2/12/61 sale where it realized \$67.50.

U.S. HALF DIMES

MAGNIFICENT GEM 1792 HALF DISME

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



423. 1792, Half Disme. High Rarity-3. Gem Uncirculated. An absolutely superb specimen with a very sharp strike, essentially flawless surfaces, and magnificent medium multicolored toning, mostly shades of blue, russet and gold. The portrait on the obverse stands out in very bold relief and every strand of hair is well defined. There is just a slight weakness at the tops of the letters PAR.O(F), but the obverse is otherwise sharp and well centered. On the reverse, the strike is off slightly to the lower right, but all of the letters and devices are clearly on the flan. There are some minor adjustment marks on the eagle's breast and at the left reverse rim.

JJP purchased this coin at the 1948 ANA Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, from Malcolm O.E. Chell-Frost for \$100, although he notes Chell-Frost was originally asking \$150. On JJP's coin envelope he notes, "Dr. Judd says this specimen better than his. He formerly thought his was best known." I had the privilege of selling the Dr. Judd coin in Auction '80 and I feel that the two specimens are comparable, with perhaps just a slight edge to this piece. Two other outstanding examples of this issue, both Gem quality, are the Floyd Starr specimen (Stack's, 10/92, Lot 4), and the Mid-American specimen sold in the 1987 GNA sale, Lot 721. All four of these examples are legitimate contenders for the honor of "finest known", and possibly there are others I am

not aware of, but this is the 1792 Half Disme I would personally choose as the finest.

Although the 1792 Half Disme is listed in the Judd book as a pattern, it is generally considered to be the first regular issue of the United States Mint, even though the coins were not actually struck at the Mint. Construction on the new Mint facility began in July 1792. Mint machinery for coining had been purchased and was being stored at John Harper's business location. (Harper was the contract coiner for the New Jersey Cents of 1787.) The 1792 Half Dimes (and other 1792 dated coins, legitimate patterns since only a few of each were minted), were struck at Harper's on the newly purchased Mint machinery while the U.S. Mint was under construction.

President George Washington referred to the Half Disme issue on November 6, 1792, in his fourth annual address to Congress when he stated, "There has been a small beginning in the coinage of Half Dimes; the want of small coins in circulation calling the first attention to them." Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State, also noted in his household diary on July 13, 1792, "Received from the Mint 1,500 half dimes of the new coinage." The number of Half Dimes minted has not been indisputably established, but it is known that Washington himself deposited \$100 worth of silver at the Mint for the expressed purpose of striking Half Dimes. If all of the silver was used as intended, approximately 2,000 pieces would have been struck, a figure that seems consistent both with Jefferson's diary entry that 1,500 were already minted by mid-July, and with the number of specimens known today, approximately 250-300 pieces. Obviously, these coins were accepted and widely used as money because nearly all known specimens are circulated, many of them well worn.

HIGH GRADE 1794 HALF DIME



424. 1794, Valentine-2. Rarity-4. Choice Almost Uncirculated.

Sharply struck and well centered with very attractive blue, greenish-gold and russet toning. A few tiny "slide marks" on Liberty's cheek, and a few marks in the fields as well as several spots. The overall appearance of the coin is excellent and it is very close to Mint State; in fact, JJP purchased this coin as Uncirculated from a David Bullowa sale on 5/24/52 as Lot 1013 for \$74.

There are four varieties of 1794 Half Dime, all struck in the first half of 1795; this is the most common of the four with perhaps 100-120 survivors. Of the 86,416 Half Dimes minted in 1795, Robert Hilt estimates that just under 20,000 were dated 1794, the other 66,000 plus dated

1795. This estimate correlates almost perfectly with the relative rarity of the two dates since the 1794 is slightly more than three times as rare as the 1795. Note that this information does not conform to the usually claimed mintages of 7,756 for 1794 and 78,660 for 1795. This breakdown would imply that the 1794 Half Dime is 10 times as rare as the 1795, and that is definitely not the case.



425. 1795, V-4. Rarity-4. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.

Very attractive medium multicolored toning, a blend of blue, greenish-gold and russet. Sharply struck and well centered with partially prooflike fields under the beautiful toning. This is the second most common of the 10 known varieties of 1795; an estimated 150-200 examples are known. Purchased from B. Douglas, December 1954, for \$47.50.

MAGNIFICENT GEM UNCIRCULATED 1797 15 STARS HALF DIME

One Of The Finest Known Examples



426. 1797, 15 Stars, V-2. High Rarity-3. Gem Uncirculated.

A magnificent specimen that is certainly one of the finest examples known. It is completely original with light russet and gold toning highlighted with shades of pale blue-green. The coin is perfectly centered and well struck for the issue, although it does have the weakness in the central hair area, as well as on the eagle, that is characteristic of all examples of this variety. There are no hairlines, marks, scratches or impairments of any kind that have occurred since minting. However, there is one tiny semi-circular mark near Liberty's ear that appears to be a lint mark caused by something adhering to the die at the time of striking. On the reverse, there is a fine hairline die break running from a denticle through E1 to the

leaf below. There are small patches of die rust out in front of the face by the 10th and 11th stars. This is a remarkable coin that is easily in the Condition Census for the variety, possibly even the finest known, although the Eliasberg Gem was perhaps its equal. This coin was purchased from Numismatic Gallery's famous Menjou sale of 6/15/50, Lot 91, where JJP paid \$47.50 on a catalogue estimate of \$50.

There are five varieties of Half Dimes of the rare type of 1796-1797 with Small Eagle reverse, two of 1796 and three of 1797. This is the most "common" of the five, although it is certainly a rare issue in Mint State, and a major rarity in this incredible condition. Approximately 200-250 examples of this variety are known in all grades.



427. **1801, V-1. Rarity-4. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Bluntly struck giving the impression of more wear than there really is. Weak at the obverse border and on the face and hair. Irregularly struck on the reverse with several weak and indistinct areas on clouds, stars, and the right side of the shield and wing. The coin has a distinctly doubled date

and profile as well as prominent areas of clashing, particularly on the obverse. It has lovely natural toning, mostly reddish-gold with shades of blue and violet. Actually, the coin is very close to full Mint State and is solidly in the Condition Census for the date. Even the fabulous Eliasberg Collection had only a F-VF example of the 1801. Purchased in October 1960 from the Milton Holmes sale (Stack's), Lot 2583, for \$380.

The Half Dime type with Large Eagle reverse was only issued in the five years from 1800-1805 (excluding 1804) and, with the exception of the 1800, all the dates are very rare. The 1801 is a surprisingly rare and underrated issue, but always greatly overshadowed by the 1802, which is one of the most famous of all U.S. coins, and even the 1805 with its much lower mintage. However, the 1801 compares very favorably in rarity to the 1805 and, as of June 1997, the grading services, for example, had actually seen fewer examples of the 1801.

VERY RARE 1802 HALF DIME

The Famous Parmelee-Smith-Dunham-Neil Specimen



428. **1802, V-1. Rarity-5. Extremely Fine.** Very sharply struck on the obverse except for some weakness at the left border. The reverse is generally well struck, although there are patches of weakness through the stars above the eagle's head, and near the border. The obverse has a number of tiny digs on the bust and face as well as a few in the fields. There is light to medium gray and iridescent toning with the iridescence in shades of russet, violet, greenish-gold and blue. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's famous Will W. Neil Collection sale in 1947. In that sale, this coin appeared as Lot 1517 and realized \$630. Prior to that, the coin sold in the W. F. Dunham sale in 1941, Lot 35, for \$472.50, and much earlier in the H.P. Smith sale in 1906, Lot 992, for \$290. Smith purchased the coin from the famous Lorin G. Parmelee Collection sale in 1890 as Lot 798 for \$205, a huge price for any coin in 1890. For example, in that sale, the Proof 1833, 1835 and 1836 Proof Half Eagles, also in the Pittman Collection, brought only \$30, \$17 and \$21 respectively,

and the Proof 1854 Type II Gold Dollar, another Pittman coin, brought a whopping \$5!

This is probably the most famous of all the 1802 Half Dimes, and in 1883 was referred to by Harold P. Newlin, in his classic article on Half Dimes, as being, "An uncirculated specimen in the cabinet of L.C. (sic) Parmelee of Boston, Mass." Obviously, it falls considerably short of Uncirculated, but it does have very little actual wear. The digs and few hairlines, more than any evidence of wear and circulation, are what bring it to the Extremely Fine grade level. When JJP paid \$630 for this coin, it was the most money he had ever spent for a coin up to that time, and even with all the great rarities that he purchased over the next few years, it was not until 1954, when he attended the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt, that he spent more on any single coin than he did on this one. He obviously recognized and appreciated the 1802's great rarity and, indeed, this coin is one of the very few famous date rarities in U.S. numismatics that JJP ever purchased. Basically, since he was not wealthy and thus on a strict budget, he focused his attention (and pocketbook) on Proofs and condition rarities, because it was in these areas that he felt he could realize the most value for his money. Accompanying this coin are the original sales invoices from the Neil sale, Dunham sale and H.P. Smith sale.



429. 1803, V-2. **Rarity-3.** **Very Fine.** Well struck and centered. Medium gray and gold toning, a trifle on the dull side. Several very small edge nicks and bruises, as well as some light hairlines and tiny contact marks in the fields. Very

scarce, but less so than the other dates of this type except the 1800. Purchased by JJP from the Dr. C.E. Smith Collection sale, Lot 886, held by Stack's on 5/7/55. JJP paid \$42.50 for the coin.

EXCEPTIONAL 1805 HALF DIME

Possibly The Second Or Third Finest Known



430. 1805, V-1. **Rarity-4. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Actually, this coin is quite close to full Mint State and is certainly in the Condition Census for the date, possibly even the second or third finest known. (The only distinctly finer example I have seen or heard of is the Uncirculated specimen from Lester Merkin's September 18, 1968 sale, Lot 129.) As usual, this coin displays the weak and irregular striking qualities seen on all 1805 Half Dimes. In particular, on the reverse, the top of the right wing is partially obliterated, as are several of the stars and clouds above it. The obverse is weak on the bust along the drapery, as well as on the face and the

stars near the right rim. The coin has beautiful multicolored toning in shades of russet, blue and pale gold. It also has a few marks and light hairlines, but virtually no indication of any actual circulation wear. JJP obtained this coin from a David Bullowa sale, 5/24/52, Lot 1021, for \$88.

The 1805 is generally considered to be the second rarest issue of this rare, short-lived type, although, in my experience, the 1801 is very similar in overall rarity. Only 15,600 examples of the 1805 were struck, all from one pair of dies, and only about 75-100 specimens are known today, nearly all in very low grades.



431. **1829, V-3. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with a fully prooflike obverse and a partially prooflike reverse. The coin has superb medium multicolored iridescent toning, especially attractive on the reverse which is essentially Gem quality. The reverse has signs of obvious clash marks around the eagle. The obverse has a few light hairlines as well as a tiny planchet imperfection between the chin and the first three stars. Purchased as a Proof on 7/1/47 from Paul Sietz for \$10, but definitely a business strike.

432. **1829, V-3. Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Fully prooflike on both the obverse and reverse. Attractive light to medium multicolored iridescent toning with lovely shades of violet, russet, blue and greenish-gold. Very sharply struck and lustrous. Purchased as a Proof from a B. Max Mehl sale, Lot 1077, date and price unknown.

433. **1829, V-6. Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** A boldly struck, frosty, highly lustrous specimen with superb medium toning, a combination of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. A couple of light obverse scratches keep it out of the Choice category, but the reverse is basically Gem quality.

GEM PROOFLIKE 1830 V-8 HALF DIME

Possible Proof



434. **1830, V-8. Rarity-2. Gem Uncirculated, possibly Proof.** Deep mirror fields that are evident even within the shield on the reverse. It is possible that this coin is a Proof and, in fact, JJP purchased it as such. However, in my opinion, it is a first strike business strike rather than a true Proof, although others who view it may have a different opinion. The determination of the Proof status of many early U.S. coins is not an exact science and one has to consider a number of factors. A coin like this almost always has been called a Proof in the past by the individual who sold or catalogued it, but, as I said, I feel that this specimen is a prooflike business strike. From a quality standpoint, the coin is a nearly flawless Gem and has absolutely superb medium multicolored toning, a beautiful blend of russet, greenish-gold, violet and blue. Purchased privately from George Bauer, 9/47, for \$15.

435. **1830, V-11. Rarity-4. Uncirculated.** A frosty specimen with blue-green peripheral toning. Purchased from Walter Webb's 4/8/44 sale, Lot 1641, for \$1.30.

436. **1831, V-1. Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Fully prooflike and very sharply struck. Scrape on bottom of first 1 in date, clashed dies both sides. Very attractive medium blue and gold toning. Obtained as a Proof, but, in my opinion, a prooflike business strike rather than a true Proof. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) on 7/15/47 for \$17.50.

437. **1831, V-4. Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and partially prooflike, more so on the obverse than on the reverse which has noticeable patches of mint frost around the eagle, and little or no prooflike surface within the shield. The coin is somewhat weak at places in the denticles, but all the main design devices are very sharp. There are light hairlines in the fields and attractive peripheral toning. JJP purchased this coin as a Proof and for many years displayed it with his 1831 Proof coins, all of which are true Proofs except this one. Purchased from David Bullowa's 5/24/52 sale, the source of a number of the Pittman Half Dimes. This piece realized \$11.50 at the sale.



438. **1831, V-5. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated,** fully prooflike. Of the three 1831 Half Dimes in the Pittman Collection, all of which were purchased as Proofs, this one has the most credentials. However, in my opinion, it still does not qualify as a true Proof, despite its mirror fields and mirror surface within the shield on the reverse. Of course, others may examine it and feel differently. The coin has medium greenish-gold, russet and pale blue toning and minimal marks. Purchased from Hans Schulman's 4/3/59 sale as Lot 1526 where it realized \$50 on an estimate of \$60.

439. **1832, V-2. Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Mostly prooflike, but with unfinished areas in front of Liberty's face and around the eagle's wing. Light gray and gold toning, a few hairlines. This variety has a prominent lump in the lower loop of the 8. Acquired by JJP as a Proof, but it is definitely not one.

440. **1832, V-7. Rarity-5. Uncirculated.** Frosty; softly struck on the head and on the eagle's left wing. Light peripheral toning and a few faint hairlines. Same obverse die as preceding with the lump in the bottom loop of the 8. This is a rare, seldom seen variety. Purchased from Walter Webb's 4/18/44 sale, Lot 1643, for \$1.50.

441. 1833, V-1. **Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** nearly Choice. Medium multicolored toning. A hairline die break runs from the obverse rim above Liberty's cap down through the bust, and ends at the neckline of Liberty's gown. Purchased from Barney Bluestone in November 1943 for \$1.15.

442. 1833, V-5. **Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** Fully prooflike obverse, mostly frosty reverse. Noticeable planchet defect in the

field between 8 and 3 of the date, actually obliterating part of the lower ball of the 3. There is also a planchet imperfection in the field to the left of the eagle's beak. The coin is lustrous and has light reddish-gold peripheral toning with highlights of blue. This is one of many coins JJP purchased from the Allenburger sale (Mehl, 3/48). It appeared as Lot 899, where it was catalogued as a Proof and realized \$5.75.

MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1834 HALF DIME



443. 1834, V-4. **Rarity-1 as variety, High Rarity-6 as Proof. Gem Brilliant Proof.** Fully struck with deep mirrorlike fields and superb light blue, gold and violet toning. A number of quite prominent lint marks are on the obverse by the cap and 8th star, but the coin has only a few tiny marks that have occurred since striking. The strike and depth of the mirror fields of this coin are quite amazing and certainly in stark contrast to some of the other pieces here that were acquired as Proofs. Using this coin as a standard (which admittedly is not necessarily an accurate method of judging early Proofs), very few other Bust

Half Dimes would pass muster as true Proofs. JJP purchased this coin for \$9.45 in 1948 as Lot 912 from B. Max Mehl's famous Dr. Christian A. Allenburger Collection sale which was one of the finest collections of U.S. Proof coins ever offered for sale at auction.

It has been my experience that most Bust Half Dimes offered as Proofs have really been prooflike business strikes, including many sold in highly regarded "name" sales. Therefore, true Proofs such as this one are actually much more rare than often realized. The number struck, of course, is not known exactly, but certainly no more than 12-15 Proofs of this date are known today.



444. 1834, V-4. **Rarity-1. Very Choice Uncirculated.** Same variety as the preceding Proof, but this, of course, was struck as a business strike for normal commerce. This coin has beautiful frosty surfaces, a very sharp strike, and mottled multicolored toning, mostly pale gold and reddish-gold in the center blending first to violet then to blue and greenish-gold at the border. A die break bisects the entire obverse running from K-7 to K-1 diagonally through the bust. Obtained from the New Netherlands 15th sale, 12/43, Lot 999, for \$1.40.

445. 1835, Small Date, Small 5C, V-7. **Rarity-1. Uncirculated.** Partially prooflike, but with unfinished areas in the dies, most noticeable around Liberty's face and on the reverse at the eagle's left wing. The coin has lovely multicolored peripheral toning, but it also has a number of light hairlines. Purchased as a Proof by JJP from the Dr. Charles Green Collection sale (B. Max Mehl, 4/49), Lot 1077, for \$6.30.

446. A group of three Bust Half Dimes including 1835, V-11, **Rarity-2, Almost Uncirculated,** light to medium multicolored toning, somewhat dull surfaces; 1836, V-6, **Rarity-1, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** mottled multicolored toning, prominent clash marks on both sides; and 1837, Large 5C, V-3, **Rarity-1, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated,** mottled reddish-gold and green toning on the obverse, blue, violet and greenish-gold on the reverse. Three pieces.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1836 HALF DIME

Rare Valentine-5 Variety



447. 1836, Large 5C, V-5. High Rarity-5, possibly Rarity-6. **Gem Uncirculated.** This is a very special quality coin. It is fully struck (except at stars 3 and 4), and has absolutely superb medium multicolored blue, greenish-gold, violet and russet toning. The obverse is fully prooflike, the reverse mostly frosty. There is a die break that bisects the obverse, starting in the denticles just above the cap, and running down through the cap, hair curls and neck past the inside of the 6 to the rim. There are a few tiny marks in the field behind Liberty's head, but the coin is otherwise flawless. On the reverse, there is a very prominent die break at TED of UNITED, indicating that this is a very late die state of this rare variety. Purchased as a Proof for \$9 from a David Bullowa sale on 5/24/52 where it appeared as Lot 1029. This is the third specimen listed in Breen's Proof Encyclopedia, and a coin he personally examined and determined to be a Proof, a determination with which I disagree.



448. 1836, Large 5C, V-5. High Rarity-5, possibly Rarity-6, as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Uncirculated, fully Prooflike, or possibly Proof (per New Netherlands). It appears as though the obverse has been cleaned, perhaps in an attempt to remove carbon, but the reverse is very choice. In my opinion, this coin is a prooflike business strike, but others may examine it and disagree. Walter Breen, one of the most famous and respected cataloguers and numismatic researchers of the Twentieth Century, catalogued this coin for the New Netherlands 52nd ("Landau") sale of 12/13/58 as Lot 359, where he called it a Proof and noted that it was from the Virgil Brand Collection. JJP paid \$75 at the sale, which would have been consistent with the price for a true Proof Half Dime in 1958. (Breen has listed this coin as No. 4 in his Proof Encyclopedia.)

This coin represents a very early state of the dies as compared to the preceding lot, and it has just the start of the die crack on the reverse at TED in UNITED which later became the huge break we see on Lot 447.

There is also no sign of the bisecting die break that later appeared on the obverse. Both this and the preceding lot were sold as Proofs in the past, and although Lot 447 should not confuse anyone today, this coin offers more potential for debate as to its original striking status. This coin is the same variety and die state, and has the same overall appearance (strike, surfaces, etc.), as the Half Dime in an original 1836 Proof set that was sold in the Philadelphia area in 1996. That would seem to strengthen this specimen's argument for Proof status. However, I still call the coin Mint State, but not without some hesitation. Unfortunately, a definitive determination is quite often not possible with these early Proofs.



449. 1836, Small 5C, V-6. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated, fully prooflike. Very attractive steel blue, greenish-gold and russet toning. Planchet imperfection to the right of the base of the 6 in the date. There is a long hairline in the field behind the head just touching the inner points of the 8th and 11th stars. There is also an area where the die is unfinished or unpolished around the profile of Miss Liberty. This coin was purchased by JJP for \$5.25 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale on 10/3/47 as Lot 166 where it was catalogued as a Brilliant Proof.



450. 1836, Small 5C, V-6. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Fully prooflike obverse, semi-prooflike reverse. The coin has beautiful sea green, blue and violet toning. The reverse is virtually Gem quality, but the obverse does have some light hairlines and spots. Not surprisingly, this coin was also called a Proof when it was sold in French's 2/59 sale as Lot 1069 for \$44.

451. 1837, Large 5C, V-3. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Very weakly struck on the head of Miss Liberty and the left side of the eagle. Deep steel blue, violet and greenish-gold toning. The surfaces are sufficiently prooflike for this coin to have been called a Brilliant Proof when it was sold as Lot 1582 in the famous Will W. Neil Collection sale in 1947 for \$7.35. There is evidence of considerable die polishing on the reverse, but I do not believe that this coin has any legitimate claim to Proof status.

GEM PROOF
1837 LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIME

One Of The Finest
 Of Just 16-20 Proofs Known



452. 1837, Liberty Seated, No Stars, Large Date, V-1. **Gem Proof.** The date has been repunched with doubling showing on the 1, 3 and 7, and three distinct punches showing clearly on the 8, the lowest into the denticles. This coin is superb in all respects with a very sharp strike, including bold detail on the head, full mirror fields that are nearly flawless, a partial wire rim, and absolutely gorgeous toning. On the obverse, it is light reddish-gold in the center blending to deeper shades of violet, russet and blue-green at the border. The reverse has deep reddish-gold and violet within the wreath and blue and greenish-gold near the rim. JJP purchased this coin privately from Numismatic Gallery on 7/15/47 for \$25.

Reportedly, at least 20 Proofs of the newly designed Liberty Seated Half Dime were struck on July 25, 1837. (Undoubtedly, an additional small quantity was struck later as well.) These were presented to dignitaries rather than sold to numismatists, and although a small number have been well preserved, more have not, and some have likely even been lost to numismatics forever. Today, perhaps 16-20 examples can be accounted for and this specimen is certainly one of the top three or four. Note: The 1837 No Stars Half Dime is considerably more rare in Proof than the companion 1837 No Stars Dime.

453. 1837, Liberty Seated, No Stars, Small Date. **Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with full head detail and a high wire rim. There is also a cud on the wire rim from K-3 to K-5 on the obverse. The coin has light to medium multicolored iridescent toning and some faint hairlines. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$2.25.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED
1838-O HALF DIME

One Of Only A Few
 Mint State Examples Known



454. 1838-O, No Stars, V-1. **Uncirculated.** Early die state with the repunching on the first 8 clearly visible. Sharply struck with full head detail, although the date is weak from being weakly punched into the die. Very attractive medium multicolored toning, a blend of greenish-gold, blue, violet and russet. One small scratch in the right obverse field runs diagonally up from Liberty's leg. There are several obverse die breaks, including one from a denticle to Liberty's upper arm, and smaller ones to the left of her face and into the field below the cap. Another very tiny one runs from the top of the head to a denticle, yet another from the tip of the cap to a denticle. Clash marks are evident within the reverse wreath. Very rare and underrated in high grade and much less often seen than the more highly touted 1838-O Dime. Purchased by JJP as Lot 146 from Lester Merkin's September 1968 sale for \$245.

Despite its low mintage of only 70,000 pieces, a substantially smaller number than for any other O Mint Half Dime, the 1838-O is one of those many issues that has been overlooked as a rarity. In high grade especially, it is very underrated, and I doubt if more than 12-15 examples exist in full Mint State. Many great collections have failed to have an Uncirculated or even high quality circulated example of this issue (cf. Norweb: EF, and Eliasberg: VF, both scratched).

EXTREMELY RARE SUPERB PROOF 1838 HALF DIME

Valentine-10 Variety



455. 1838, Large Stars, V-10. Gem Proof. This is an amazing and possibly controversial coin. In my opinion, it is a Proof, although it may be considered by some to be Mint State. It is struck from the late stage of the Valentine-10 reverse die with the prominent break between the wreath and AMERICA. There are signs of die deterioration between the reverse legend and the rim, especially on the right side. The coin is fully struck with a sharp, square edge, well defined milling, and a partial wire rim. There is prominent recutting on star 1, less obvious recutting on star 3. The fields are mostly mirrorlike and have extensive signs of die polishing, particularly on the obverse at the date and stars, the polishing lines running more or less vertically. The dies appear to be unpolished

below the chin and around the right arm. In terms of surface quality, the coin is just fantastic; it is literally flawless and has the most superb natural toning that one could imagine. In the center, it is a beautiful violet and russet color blending first to deeper blue and then to lighter greenish-gold at the rims. Purchased by JJP as a Proof from David Bullowa's 5/24/52 sale, Lot 1032, for \$16, and specifically referred to in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia on Proofs where it is the first Proof 1838 Half Dime he lists.

In Proof, the 1838 Half Dime is an extreme rarity. It is probably High Rarity-7 with only 5-6 examples known, although all of them are somewhat controversial as to their Proof status.



456. 1838, Small Stars, Very Choice Uncirculated. Fully struck with a prominent wire rim on both sides. The surfaces are lustrous and frosty and have superb multicolored toning. The obverse is a light gold and russet, turning to violet, blue and then greenish-gold at the border. The reverse is a pale gold in the center, turning to reddish-gold and then blue with a touch of violet near the rim. There is a small dig behind Liberty's head by the 8th star and a few tiny marks between HALF and DIME, but the coin is otherwise of outstanding quality. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$1.25.

Viewing of Lots

1. Lots from the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, will be available for viewing in Salons A, B, and C of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor from Saturday, October 18, 1997, through Thursday, October 23, 1997, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:30 P.M. daily.
2. Lots will also be available for viewing in Rochester, New York, from September 22, 1997, through October 10, 1997 (excluding weekends), by appointment only.

POSSIBLE PROOF 1839 HALF DIME



457. 1839, No Drapery, V-2. Choice Uncirculated, fully Prooflike, or possibly Proof. Repunched 39 in the date, especially clear at the 9. Generally well struck and fully prooflike with considerable signs of die polishing in the obverse fields. There is, however, weakness at the upper obverse rim. The toning is very attractive, a blend of blue, violet and reddish-gold. This coin was purchased by JJP from the famed Menjou sale, 6/15/50, Lot 108, where it was catalogued as a, "Splendid, Brilliant Proof", and realized \$12.50 on an estimate of \$15. In my opinion, the coin is not a Proof but rather a prooflike business strike, but admittedly it does have certain Proof characteristics, and so this is yet another coin that may be a focal point for discussion. Walter Breen lists this as No. 4 in his list of Proof 1839 Half Dimes, although he has the pedigree subsequent to Menjou incorrect.

GEM UNCIRCULATED
1839 HALF DIME

458. 1839, No Drapery, Normal Date, V-1. Gem Uncirculated. A superb coin with a full strike, frosty mint luster and beautiful peripheral toning, mostly violet, blue and greenish-gold on the obverse, lighter, more uniform gold and reddish-gold color on the reverse. This is a fantastic coin from a quality standpoint with very clean, virtually unmarked fields. Purchased from a Wayte Raymond sale, 11/14/44, Lot 549, for \$2.10.

459. 1839-O, Medium O, Almost Uncirculated. Vivid multicolored obverse toning. Sharply struck with very frosty surfaces and only a few light marks and a touch of friction. Clash mark inside the wreath on the reverse.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF
1840 NO DRAPERY HALF DIME

One of Only 5-6 Proofs Known



460. 1840, No Drapery, Choice Proof or better. Not in Valentine, but struck from the same dies as the Eliasberg specimen and all other known Proof 1840 Half Dimes. Fully struck with a well defined head, deep mirror fields and a high wire rim. The toning is a beautiful medium steel blue, russet and gold color. There are a few very light hairlines under the toning, but the surfaces are otherwise free of marks or other impairments. Purchased 8/21/47 from Mr. O.K. Rumbel for \$20. Rumbel, from Mission, Texas, was a noted collector of Early Dollars and Lesher Dollars whose collections of those items were sold in the 1952 ANA sale.

The 1840 No Drapery Half Dime is a great rarity in Proof, as are all Proof Liberty Seated coins of the 1840's. The Proof 1840 was probably struck only for inclusion in Proof sets of the year, of which certainly no more than 10 were minted. Today, only 5-6 Proof Half Dimes of 1840 can be accounted for.

461. 1840, No Drapery, Uncirculated. Weakly struck at the rims. Lacquered at one time and now lightly hairlined. The obverse is rather prooflike, the reverse wholly frosty.

462. 1840-O, No Drapery, Medium O, Extremely Fine or better, but very weakly struck with virtually no detail on the head or hair. The reverse is also weak at the bow. The coin has medium multicolored toning. There is a tiny die break running from the bottom of the wreath to a denticle. Purchased as Lot 1705 from the Will W. Neil Collection sale (Mehl, 6/47) for \$2.10.

463. 1840, With Drapery, Uncirculated. Attractive, multicolored toning; some light hairlines, but virtually no marks other than one small gouge below the M in DIME. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery on 7/15/47 for \$10.

464. A pair of O Mint Liberty Seated Half Dimes including 1840-O, With Drapery and 1841-O, Medium O. The 1840-O grades Fine with irregular multicolored toning and the 1841-O grades Very Fine with multicolored toning. Two pieces.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1841 HALF DIME

One Of Just 5-6 Proofs Known



465. 1841, V-1. Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with deep mirror fields, a bold strike, a high wire rim, and superb toning. The obverse is especially beautiful with a gorgeous blend of deep violet, blue and greenish-gold. The reverse is slightly lighter with shades of blue-gray and russet. The coin has the tell-tale characteristics of this Proof-only variety, namely the die scratch below Liberty's upraised arm and a tiny defect at the top of D in UNITED. Purchased from David Bullowa's 5/24/52 sale for \$19.50 and the first Proof 1841 Half Dime listed in the Breen Proof Encyclopedia.

The Proof silver coins of 1841 are all extremely rare, indeed, among the rarest of the entire decade. Unlike the Silver Dollar and the two copper denominations, which were all struck in additional quantities, the Proof Half Dime was struck only for inclusion in the year's Proof sets, which probably numbered about 10. No more than 5-6 Proof 1841 Half Dimes are known today. Eliasberg, Norweb, Garrett, and Starr, all great collections, failed to have a Proof of this issue.



466. 1841, Choice Uncirculated. Multicolored obverse toning, light reddish-gold and violet in the center blending to deeper blue and greenish-gold at the border. The reverse is fully frosty with just a trace of light toning near the denticles. Sharply struck and with relatively few marks. Obtained from the New Netherlands 18th sale, 10/3/44, Lot 221, for \$2.10.

CHOICE PROOF 1842 HALF DIME

Only 6-8 Proofs Known



467. 1842, V-1. Choice Proof. Lightly lacquered. Fully struck and brilliant with just a trace of multicolored toning in the lacquering. Deep mirror fields that show a few tiny lint marks as well as a few scattered hairlines. The most prominent lint mark runs from the U to the bottom of the wreath. Extremely rare, nearly equal to the 1840 and 1841; only 6-8 Proofs of this issue are known. Norweb had a Proof of this date; Eliasberg, Garrett, and Starr did not. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery in April 1948 for \$18.50.

468. 1842, Choice Uncirculated. A well struck, frosty, lustrous specimen with superb light greenish-gold and pale violet toning on the obverse. There is also some attractive reddish-brown toning near the periphery of the reverse. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$1.25.

469. 1842-O, Extremely Fine or better. Very sharply struck with a partial wire rim on the obverse and full head detail. The coin is quite prooflike, especially on the obverse, and has mottled multicolored toning. A rare and underrated issue that is seldom seen better than this. Purchased privately from David Bullowa as Uncirculated on 5/3/49 for \$5.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1843 HALF DIME

Triple Punched Date, Not In Valentine



470. 1843, Choice Proof. Triple punched date, not in Valentine or mentioned in Blythe. Sharply struck with full design details and very deep mirror fields. The toning is exceptional, a beautiful melange of blue, gold and a dash of violet. There are some very light hairlines in the fields, but no serious marks, and the overall appearance of the coin is really quite excellent. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery in the late 1940's for \$20.

The triple punching of the date is so prominent and obvious that it is surprising that this variety is not described in Valentine. This

same triple punching of the date appears on the 1843 Half Dime in the original 1843 Proof set that follows later in this sale. It is also evident on the piece that was in the original 1843 set in the Amon Carter sale, as well as the Floyd Starr coin. This variety is not to be confused with the double date variety that is mentioned in Valentine and in Al Blythe's book. The late Kam Ahwash once claimed to have had an Unc. of this variety, but I think it is more likely that this is a Proof-only variety. Furthermore, it is almost certainly the case that all Proof Half Dimes of 1843 are from these dies since they were all struck at the same time for inclusion in the 10-15 Proof sets of the year. Today only 6-8 examples are known, including two in the Pittman Collection.

471. 1843, Uncirculated. Semi-prooflike obverse, fully frosty reverse. The obverse has beautiful greenish-gold and blue toning near the border, the reverse has just a touch of light golden toning. Very sharply struck.

472. 1844, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly Mint State. Vivid multicolored obverse toning, light peripheral toning on the reverse. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/30/43, for \$2.75.

EXTREMELY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1844-O HALF DIME

One Of The Finest Examples Known



473. 1844-O, V-1. Very Choice Uncirculated. The mintmark is called Large by Valentine and Medium by Al Blythe in their respective reference works. This coin is extremely well struck on the obverse with full detail on Liberty's head and a partial wire rim. The reverse is not as well struck, with some weakness at HALF and on the upper left leaves of the wreath, as well as S and T of STATES. The obverse is partially prooflike, the reverse frosty. The obverse has beautiful, but somewhat unusual and irregular multicolored toning, mostly russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The reverse, however, has more conventional light to medium gold toning with slightly darker shades at the rim. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but nothing of significance. Purchased by JJP from

the famous William C. Atwater sale (B. Max Mehl, 6/11/46), Lot 1193, for \$15.75.

The 1844-O Half Dime is extremely rare in Mint State and this coin ranks as one of the top specimens known, rivaling the beautiful Eliasberg coin sold in April 1996. (However, this piece is considerably sharper than the Eliasberg specimen, since the latter was quite weak on the head and some stars.) The prooflike nature of the obverse is sufficient for B. Max Mehl to have termed this coin a, "Brilliant semi-proof, nearly equal to a proof", when he catalogued it for the Atwater sale. The one "unverified Proof" that has been mentioned by Walter Breen and Al Blythe is, in fact, this coin, but it is plain to see that it is not a Proof. Even Mehl, who called many coins Proof when they were not, recognized that this was not a true Proof. Walter Breen never saw the coin, but for some reason mistakenly referred to it as a possible but "unverified Proof" in his Encyclopedia.

474. 1845, Uncirculated. Well struck with a partial wire rim on the obverse. The frosty reverse is mostly brilliant, the obverse has multicolored shades of russet, blue and greenish-gold. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$1.25.



475. 1846, Very Fine. Generally well struck, but with the typical softness on Liberty's head. Irregular, mottled multicolored toning on the obverse, lighter golden tones on the reverse. A small scratch on the obverse. The 4 and 6 in the date are joined as they are on all known business strikes of this date. Very scarce issue in all grades.

GEM PROOF 1847 HALF DIME**Possibly Unique V-1 Proof**

476. 1847, V-1. Gem Proof. A magnificent coin with superb, pristine surfaces and beautiful light gray and reddish-gold toning. The coin has deep mirror fields and a very bold strike. The 18 in the date has been repunched, the repunching most prominent on the 1 and just barely noticeable on the 8. The tops of all four numerals in the date firmly touch the base. There are numerous little die defects around many of the stars, the most noticeable between the 10th and 11th stars, and there is recutting on the 12th star. Both Valentine and Blythe list only the V-2 variety as existing in Proof. This specimen, however, is obviously V-1 and is also clearly a Proof, and a Gem at that. It may well be unique among the 6-8 Proofs known of this date. Purchased by JJP from Wayte Raymond's 5/16/45 sale, Lot 810, for \$25.

**EXTREMELY RARE GEM PROOF
1848 HALF DIME****Approximately 6-8 Proofs Known**

478. 1848, Medium Date, Gem Proof. A superb, magnificent specimen in all respects. The reverse is rotated 180 degrees from normal resulting in the coin having "medal turn" as opposed to the normal business strike "coin turn". This is characteristic of every Proof 1848 Half Dime that I have seen and may, in fact, be diagnostic. This coin has spectacular toning. The obverse is a deep multicolored blend of russet, blue-green and violet; the reverse is a lighter, more mottled reddish-gold and pale blue color. The strike is exceedingly bold and the coin has a sharp wire rim. The fields are literally flawless without hairlines or marks of any kind, although there are a few dark toning spots in the left obverse field and one on Liberty's gown. There is a tiny die lump between the 10th and 11th stars. The date is high in the field, 18 very close if not actually touching the base, 48 solidly touching. Obtained from the same sale as the 1847 Proof, this as the next lot, Lot 811, for an equal price, \$25.

Only 6-8 Proof 1848 Half Dimes are known, making this date similar in rarity in Proof to the 1847 and the Proofs from 1840-1843 offered earlier. The 1848 is slightly more rare than the 1849 that follows, itself a great rarity in Proof. While a few collections, including the truly great ones such as Norweb, Eliasberg, Starr, and Garrett may have had several different Half Dimes from the 1840's in Proof, only the Pittman Collection has them all. This is not only an amazing achievement in terms of completeness, but also in terms of quality, since all of the Pittman coins are Choice Proof or better with almost half (1845, 1847, 1848 and 1849) fantastic gems.

477. 1847, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Multicolored obverse toning with shades of blue, greenish-gold, violet and russet. The reverse is frosty and has lighter toning.

479. 1848, Large Date, Extremely Fine. The huge date overlaps the base. Mottled medium toning on the obverse with various shades of greenish-gold, russet, blue and violet. The reverse is somewhat more deeply and evenly toned. A moderately scarce variety. Purchased from David Bullowa's May 1952 sale for \$3.25 as Uncirculated.

GEM MINT STATE 1848-O HALF DIME

480. **1848-O, Medium O, Gem Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with full head and foot and a partial wire rim. The reverse has just a trace of light toning at the periphery, but the obverse has spectacular electric blue, greenish-gold and russet toning. The fields are very clean and unmarked and have full frosty mint luster. JJP purchased this early in his numismatic career from a Walter Webb sale, 4/8/44, Lot 1783, for \$3.50.

EXTREMELY RARE GEM PROOF 1849 HALF DIME

**Only 8-10 Proofs Known
This Specimen Equal To The Finest**



481. **1849, Gem Proof.** Prominently repunched date, most noticeable at the 1 and 9, but also clearly evident on the 4; only the 8 shows little, if any, sign of repunching. This coin, like the 1847 and 1848 in Lots 476 and 478, is a superb specimen in all respects. It is fully struck with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge and magnificent medium to deep multicolored toning, mostly shades of steel blue, violet and greenish-gold. There is a tiny lint mark above the head. The fields on this specimen are virtually pristine with no marks or hairlines of any kind. Close inspection, however, does show some raised die scratches and signs of die polishing. There is a tiny die lump between the 10th and 11th stars. Purchased 10/25/46 from New Netherlands Coin Co. for \$17.50.

This coin has the reverse rotated 180 degrees from normal (i.e. dies parallel), leaving the coin with "medal turn" rather than "coin turn". Every Proof 1849 Half Dime that I have seen has this 180 degree rotated reverse, as do the Proofs of 1848; it is likely that this characteristic is diagnostic and that all Proof 1849 Half Dimes have a similar rotated reverse. Furthermore, only Proofs have the rotated reverse; it is not seen on business strikes. Although the year 1849 is generally an extremely rare one for Proofs of all denominations, the Half Dime seems to be just a bit less rare than those Proofs already offered here. I have no explanation for this and certainly the difference is very small, perhaps 8-10 Proofs of the 1849 compared to 5-8 Proofs of the other dates. Garrett, Eliasberg, and Starr all had nice Proof examples of this date.

482. **1849, Almost Uncirculated.** Repunched date, most noticeable at the 1 and especially the 9. The repunching on the 8 and 4, if there at all, is difficult to discern. This coin has attractive multi-colored obverse toning and just a trace of toning at the periphery on the reverse. The fields are quite clean. Purchased from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$1.25.



483. **1849-O, V-1. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck and fully frosty. Small open Medium Date. Multicolored toning on the obverse, mostly reddish-gold on the reverse with blue and violet near the rim. Clash marks both sides. Very little evidence of real wear, and actually the coin is quite close to full Mint State. Scarce in any condition and rare in this high grade. Purchased for \$15 from David Bullowa, 5/3/49.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1850 HALF DIME

One Of Only 6-8 Proofs Known



484. 1850, V-2. Choice Proof. The 1, 8 and 5 of the date touch the base, the 0 is very close. There is a tiny raised die lump on C of AMERICA. According to Al Blythe's reference, this is a Proof-only variety. The strike is very sharp, the edge is square, and the fields, particularly on the reverse, are very mirrorlike. The coin has superb medium blue, greenish-gold and light violet toning. There are numerous die polishing lines around the stars and near the denticles on the obverse, less such polishing on the reverse. A few light hairlines and tiny marks are seen here and there in the fields, but none is really serious and the overall appearance of the coin is excellent. This was purchased from a David Bullowa sale in May 1952 for \$15.50.

Admittedly, this coin does not look as much like a Proof as the 1847, 1848 and 1849 just offered but, in my opinion, and in the opinion of Walter Breen who examined it in 1952, it is definitely a Proof. It is the second example referred to by Breen in his Proof Encyclopedia. As a Proof, it is of extreme rarity with only 6-8 pieces known.

485. 1850, Choice Uncirculated. Well struck with full frosty mint luster and beautiful obverse toning. Die defects by the denticles near the 8th and 9th stars as well as the Liberty cap. There are also a number of die file marks near the denticles close to other stars. This is the Valentine 3 variety with the 1 touching the base and the 8, 5 and 0 close, but not quite touching the base. Purchased 2/5/44 from a Walter Webb sale, Lot 333, for \$1.25.

VERY CHOICE 1850-O HALF DIME



486. 1850-O, Large O, Very Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck with very attractive medium multicolored obverse toning; the reverse is only slightly lighter in color. There are a few faint hairlines on the reverse, but the coin is close to Gem quality. As such, it is quite rare and underrated.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1851 HALF DIME

One Of Just 4-5 Proofs Known



487. 1851, V-1. Very Choice Proof. All the numerals in the date touch the base. Generally well struck, except for some weakness on the head of Liberty. Very mirrorlike fields on the obverse with a considerable number of die polishing lines throughout. Faint clash marks in the right obverse field by the leg. There is an area of die rust in the denticles and on the rim near the 10th star, as well as a die lump in the field between the 10th and 11th stars. On the reverse, there are heavy die file marks above MERIC in AMERICA as well as around the first S in STATES; other lighter ones are left and right of A in STATES. There are faint clash marks at the top of the right side of the bow. The coin has absolutely superb toning, midnight blue, violet, russet and greenish-gold, somewhat deeper shades on the reverse than on the obverse. There are a few tiny marks in the right obverse field, but the coin is otherwise of Gem quality. Extremely rare as a Proof; only 4-5 examples are known. Purchased for \$21 from David Bullowa's May 1952 sale where JJP purchased many of these Proof Half Dimes.

This coin, like all Proofs of 1851 and 1853, regardless of denomination, will be a subject for debate because some will look at it and feel that it is a Proof, some will not. Interested bidders are encouraged to examine it very closely and draw their own conclusions. Personally, I do not feel that any Proof coins were actually struck in 1851 or 1853. This coin is what I call an "accidental" or "unintentional" Proof, much like the 1853 Arrows Dime offered in Lot 615. The dies came together without a blank between them and then had to be polished to remove the resulting clash marks. This coin, and a few others like it, were then struck and are what pass as Proofs of 1851.

To the best of my knowledge, no coins of any denomination dated 1851 or 1853 (other than the Restrike Silver Dollars) exist that are unequivocal Proofs with the appearance and "fabric" of the Proofs of the 1840's, 1852 (which may all be Restrikes), or those struck after 1853. The purported Proofs of 1851 and 1853 (like this one and the Dime in Lot 615) also do not look anything at all like the Proofs of 1850 which are obvious, true Proofs actually struck in the year of issue, but with a unique, distinctively different appearance.

488. 1851, Uncirculated. Lustrous with partially prooflike fields and attractive greenish-gold and blue toning. Same variety as the preceding with rust in the denticles by the 10th star. However, this coin exhibits none of the die polishing or file marks of the coin in Lot 487. Purchased from the New Netherlands 17th sale, 5/44, Lot 787, for \$2.90.

489. 1851-O, V-2. **Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck except for some weakness on the upper left leaves of the wreath and the bottom of ST in STATES. Lustrous surfaces with attractive but unusual multicolored obverse toning.

The reverse has lovely peripheral toning with blue-green and russet shades. Just the barest trace of friction and really very close to full Mint State. Purchased from the New Netherlands 18th sale, 10/44, Lot 234, for \$2.35.

EXTREMELY RARE GEM PROOF 1852 HALF DIME

One Of Just 5-6 Proofs Known



490. 1852, V-3. **Gem Proof.** A superb, nearly flawless specimen with very attractive light reddish-gold, blue and violet toning that is rather uniform across the surfaces of the coin. There is one small spot at the 6th star and a tiny die lump between the 10th and 11th stars. Very sharply struck with mirror fields which show extensive die polishing lines. The date is high in the field, slanting down to the right, 1 close to the base, the other numerals increasingly distant from it. Like a number of other Proof Half Dimes in the Pittman Collection, this piece was purchased from David Bullowa's May 1952 sale for \$26.50.

This Proof 1852 Half Dime is comparable in quality to the 1847, 1848 and 1849 offered earlier, and is a much more obvious Proof than the 1851 in Lot 487, or even the 1850 in Lot 484. This is because the 1852 was clearly struck as an intentional Proof, whereas, in my opinion, the 1851 is an "accidental" or "unintentional" Proof that was created when the dies were polished to remove clash marks. Although this is a definite Proof, I think that it is very possible that this coin, and all 1852 Proof coins, are actually Restrikes minted in the late 1850's or early 1860's. They certainly were not issued in sets in 1852, as were the Proofs from 1840-1849 and those minted after 1853.

491. 1852, **Uncirculated.** The obverse is frosty and lustrous with beautiful multicolored toning. The reverse is lighter in color with peripheral toning and a number of light hairlines within the wreath around the denomination. A tiny

die break runs from a denticle through the bottom of the numerals of the date. Purchased from New Netherlands 17th sale, 5/44, Lot 789, for \$3.50.

VERY RARE AND UNDERRATED 1852-O HALF DIME



492. 1852-O, **Choice Uncirculated.** Certainly one of the finest known examples of this very rare and underrated issue. It is softly struck on the stars (particularly those at the right) and portions of the wreath, and is very weak on Liberty's head and the ribbon on the reverse. The coin has beautiful toning, a combination of reddish-gold, violet and blue. The fields are very clean with very few marks. There is one prominent die break that runs from

a denticle through the 1st star into the field, and then travels up and down Liberty's arm, looking almost like a vein. Evidence of a faint clash mark shows within the wreath. Seldom seen in EF or better condition, and really very rare in full Mint State. JJP purchased this coin as Lot 1724 from the Will W. Neil Collection sale (Mehl 6/47) for \$9.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1853 NO ARROWS HALF DIME



493. 1853, No Arrows, Gem Uncirculated. A very sharply struck specimen with absolutely superb toning, a delightful blend of violet, russet, blue and greenish-gold. From a quality standpoint, this specimen leaves virtually nothing to be desired since the surfaces are essentially flawless. A few equal quality examples may exist, but it is hard to imagine a finer one. Very scarce; most of the 135,000 struck were undoubtedly melted. Purchased 11/5/46 from a Wayte Raymond sale, Lot 290, for \$10.50.

EXTREMELY RARE 1853-O NO ARROWS HALF DIME

One Of the Finest Known



494. 1853-O, No Arrows. Uncirculated, virtually in the Choice category. Partially prooflike on the obverse, fully frosty on the reverse. Beautiful multicolored toning, a combination of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. Sharply struck and lustrous. A few light hairlines and tiny marks in the fields; weak at the date as always. This coin is exceptional for the issue since most specimens are in circulated condition. It is not quite as nice as the Eliasberg specimen, which is probably the finest known, but it is certainly in the Condition Census since only a handful of strictly Mint State examples are extant. Purchased from Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection in 1947. This coin was Lot 1725 and realized \$112.50, more than any other Half Dime in the sale except the famous 1802, also purchased by JJP.

SUPERB UNCIRCULATED 1853 ARROWS HALF DIME



495. 1853, Arrows At Date. Gem Uncirculated. Both arrowheads touch the base, the left more solidly than the right. The 1 in the date is very close to the base, but does not touch, and the other numerals are well clear of the base. This specimen is absolutely extraordinary and must be seen to be fully appreciated. It is, in a word, pristine. The fields, which are quite heavily striated from die polishing (more prominent on the obverse than on the reverse), are absolutely flawless without hairlines, marks, spots or impairments of any kind. What really adds to the coin's overall beauty, however, is the incredible toning which is a blend of violet, blue and greenish-gold. This is as superb and beautiful a coin of this type as one could ever hope to see. As is the case with a number of other Half Dimes in the Pittman Collection, this coin was purchased by JJP from David Bullowa's sale of 5/24/52 for \$13 as a Proof.

This very coin gets an extensive write-up in Breen's Proof Encyclopedia (pg. 98) where he comments on having seen it and describes it in exacting detail. In my opinion, the coin is not a Proof but rather an extraordinary quality business strike. However, others may examine it and feel as Breen, Bullowa, Pittman and others did in 1952 that it is a Proof. Whatever its original striking status, even in a collection with so many incredible quality coins, this piece still stands out as something special.

496. 1853, Arrows At Date. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Light greenish-gold toning. Sharply struck with full mint frost.

497. 1853-O, Arrows At Date. Almost Uncirculated. Large O. Fairly well struck with mottled, irregular toning. A few marks and scratches in the fields. A fine die break connects stars 9 through 13. Purchased 1/29/46 from R. Green of Chicago for \$2.50.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1854 ARROWS HALF DIME



498. 1854, Arrows At Date. Very Choice Proof. Sharply struck with a high wire rim and deep mirrorlike fields. Extremely attractive toning, particularly on the reverse which is a blend of violet and russet. The obverse is slightly lighter in color with mottled gold, blue-green, violet and russet. There are a few faint hairlines in the right obverse field, one tiny lint mark at the rock near the 1st star, and some irregularity in the wire rim below the 4 in the date. All four numerals are high and nearly touch the base. Both arrowheads lightly touch denticles, but are well away from base. Purchased 2/25/46 from a Wayte Raymond sale, Lot 448, for \$20.

By 1854, Proof production at the Mint had increased substantially over earlier years, although Proofs were not yet being made available to the general public. As many as 30-40 Proof sets were struck which included all the denominations from Half Cent to Silver Dollar, and it seems likely that Proof Half Dimes were minted only for these sets. Today, the Half Dime is of approximately the same rarity as the Silver Three Cent piece, i.e. only 15-20 Proofs are thought to exist.

499. 1854, Arrows At Date. Choice Uncirculated. Deep russet and violet toning about the obverse periphery, lighter peripheral toning on the reverse. Sharply struck and frosty with very few marks. Prominent clash marks on both sides.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1854-O ARROWS HALF DIME



500. 1854-O, Arrows At Date. Gem Uncirculated. A fantastic coin with somewhat irregular russet obverse toning and beautiful light russet and violet peripheral toning on the reverse. Very sharply struck with full mint frost and surfaces that are virtually pristine. Although not an especially rare issue, the 1854-O is certainly far more rare than the 1853, 1854, or 1855 of this type. Even the great Eliasberg Collection had only a minimally uncirculated example. Purchased 5/23/44 from the New Netherlands 17th sale, Lot 792, for \$1.75.

CHOICE PROOF 1855 ARROWS HALF DIME



501. 1855, Arrows At Date. Choice Proof. Softly struck on the 4th star and the denticles, but otherwise very sharp. Deep mirror fields and beautiful light reddish-gold and violet toning. A few marks in the field are noted between the 4th and 5th stars near the denticles, but there are only a few light hairlines as well as one lint mark in the field near the 11th star. A slight die bulge runs under all the stars on the right side. The right arrow overlaps the base, the left one solidly touches it. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery on 7/1/47 for \$22.50.

The Proof 1855 Half Dime was issued only in Proof sets of the year, of which an estimated 50-60 were struck. Fewer examples are known of the Half Dime, however, than are known of the Silver Three Cent piece, perhaps just 25-30 Proofs of the Half Dime compared to an estimated 30-35 or more of the Proof Three Cent piece.

502. 1855, Arrows At Date. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Sea green, blue and gold toning on the obverse. Frosty white reverse with just a touch of peripheral toning.



503. 1855-O, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated. Sharply struck from heavily rusted dies, particularly evident on the right arrowhead. A die break encircles all the stars and the head of Liberty. The coin has very attractive obverse toning, deep blue and violet at the periphery turning to pale russet and gold in the center. The reverse is a paler gold color with slightly deeper reddish-gold at the border. By a substantial margin, this is the rarest issue of this three year type.

RARE PROOF 1856 HALF DIME



504. 1856, Choice Proof. Brilliant mirror fields and light golden toning mixed with patches of deep reddish-violet. Some light hairlines throughout the fields, but nothing serious. Weak at the denticles, but otherwise very sharply struck with a square edge and high wire rim. Irregular striking on 8, 5 and 6 of the date as is generally seen on Proofs of this issue. Rare; issued only in the Proof sets of 1856. An estimated 30-35 Proof 1856 Half Dimes are known today, about the same number as of the Silver Three Cent piece. Decidedly underrated in comparison to the Proof 1855 Half Dime which is only a little more rare, but is worth much more because of its type coin status. Purchased from Paul Sietz on 7/1/47 for \$15.

505. 1856, Extremely Fine. Sea green and blue obverse toning; and 1857, Extremely Fine. Multicolored greenish-gold, blue and violet toning. Two pieces.

506. 1856-O, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck from heavily clashed dies. The obverse toning is a very attractive mixture of russet, violet, blue and gold. The reverse is much lighter in color with just a trace of light golden toning and a touch of deeper shades at the periphery. JJP acquired this coin from the New Netherlands 18th sale, 10/44, Lot 241, for \$3.75.

GEM PROOF 1857 HALF DIME



507. 1857, Gem Proof. A very lovely coin with superb natural toning, a blend of medium gold, russet, violet and blue-green. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and virtually without hairlines or flaws. The coin is a little softly struck in the denticles, but well struck elsewhere. Rare, but definitely not as difficult to locate as any of the preceding Proof Half Dime issues. The number of known Proof 1857 Half Dimes is probably in the 40-50 range. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery on 6/13/47 for \$16.

508. 1857-O, Almost Uncirculated. Electric toning on the obverse, just a touch of peripheral toning on the reverse. Several small scratches and a number of light hairlines in the fields.

PROOF 1858 HALF DIME



509. 1858, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Beautiful sunset toning with shades of reddish-gold and violet. Deep mirror fields that have light to moderate hairlines. Not an exceptionally sharp strike, although all of the design details are visible. Proof 1858 Half Dimes were apparently issued only as part of the complete copper and silver Proof sets of the year, of which perhaps 250-300 were struck. This mintage is much higher than in previous years because 1858 marks the first year Proof sets were made available to the general public. Today, an estimated 125-150 Proof 1858 Half Dimes are known. JJP purchased this coin for \$115 as Lot 480 from the Samuel W. Wolfson Collection sale, Part II, held by Stack's in May 1963.

510. 1858-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Irregular reddish-brown, violet and pale blue-green toning. Frosty and well struck. Obtained 5/23/44 from the New Netherlands 17th sale, Lot 797, for \$1.60.

511. 1859-O, Uncirculated. Superb toning, pale reddish-gold in the center turning first to deeper shades of the same color, then to violet, blue and finally greenish-gold at the periphery. The obverse is more deeply toned than the reverse. Very well struck with full frosty mint luster and a moderate number of minor marks and hairlines. Purchased from the New Netherlands 18th sale, 10/44, Lot 247, for \$1.85.

GEM 1860 TRANSITIONAL HALF DIME



512. 1860, Transitional, Obverse of 1859, Reverse of 1860. Gem Uncirculated, but rather flatly struck, especially at the stars, the top of the wreath, and portions of the seated figure. Superb natural reddish-gold toning. The fields are partially prooflike with heavy die striations, but virtually no marks of any kind. Except for the addition of the beautiful toning over the years, this coin is essentially "as struck." Purchased for \$30 from Malcolm O.E. Chell-Frost at the 1948 ANA Convention in Boston at the same time by JJP purchased the 1792 Half Disme.

This is a coin without a country. No mention is made of the United States of America on either side of the coin. Most regard this as a pattern (Judd-267), but it is still generally collected with the regular series, and specimens look much more like business strike regular issues than they do typical patterns. James Ross Snowden, then Director of The Mint, reported 100 pieces were struck, of which 50-75 still exist today.

513. 1860, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 1,000 Proofs minted. Beautiful light multicolored iridescent toning, a number of faint hairlines in the fields. Purchased from Mike Kolman's 7/27/61 sale, Lot 507, for \$28.

514. 1860-O, Almost Uncirculated. Multicolored toning on the obverse, peripheral toning only on the reverse. Light to moderate hairlines.

515. 1861, Choice Proof. 1,000 Proofs minted. Almost fully brilliant with just a trace of peripheral toning. Some light hairlines in the fields. Sharply struck with a high wire rim. Purchased by JJP as Lot 583 from the 9/18/61 Abner Kreisberg sale.



516. 1862, Very Choice Proof. 500 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a high wire rim. Deep mirror fields and beautiful uniform light reddish-gold toning. Small green spot at T of UNITED. Purchased by JJP as Lot 200 from Lester Merkin's 9/18/68 sale for \$62.50.



517. 1863, Choice Proof. 460 Proofs minted. Beautiful light golden toning and deep mirror fields. A few light hairlines scattered throughout the fields, mostly on the obverse. Purchased as Lot 585 from Abner Kreisberg's 9/18/61 sale for \$75.

518. A group of six San Francisco Mint Liberty Seated Half Dimes including 1863-S, 1865-S, 1869-S, 1872-S (Mintmark In Wreath), 1872-S (Mintmark Below Wreath), and 1873-S (Mintmark Below Wreath). The coins grade from Very Fine to Almost Uncirculated and have varying degrees of light to medium toning. All of the coins have been cleaned at one time and have hairlines or scratches in the fields. Six pieces.



519. 1864, Very Choice Proof. 470 Proofs minted. Superb natural reddish-gold, violet and blue toning, deeper at the border, lighter in the center. Only a few light hairlines under the toning. Very sharply struck with brilliant, deep mirror fields. Purchased by JJP from Superior's 2/12/74 sale, Lot 871, for \$370.

520. 1864-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State. A frosty, lustrous specimen with a sharp strike and mottled multi-colored toning. A rather scarce date in high grade. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's 155th sale, 12/54, near the end of Mehl's auction career. The coin was offered as Lot 1119 and realized \$18.75.



521. **1865, Very Choice Proof.** 500 Proofs minted. Absolutely superb multicolored toning, soft reddish-gold in the center blending first to violet, then blue, then greenish-gold at the border. Sharply struck with brilliant, deep mirror fields. A few faint hairlines under the toning. Purchased by JJP from Abner Kreisberg's 9/18/61 sale, Lot 588, for \$55.



522. **1866, Choice Proof.** 725 Proofs minted. Medium blue, gold and violet toning and deep mirror fields. There are a number of raised die polishing lines in the fields as well as several lint marks. Very sharply struck with a square edge and a prominent wire rim.

523. **1866, Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. 725 Proofs minted. Another sharply struck example with a prominent wire rim. Light greenish-gold, violet and russet toning. A few hairlines scattered throughout the fields. Purchased from Superior's 2/12/74 sale, Lot 876, for \$190.

RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1866-S HALF DIME



524. **1866-S, Choice Uncirculated.** A frosty, lustrous specimen with reddish-gold toning as well as a trace of multicolored toning near the periphery of the obverse. Sharply struck, except for some weakness in the denticles on the reverse, especially on the left side. The fields are very clean with virtually no marks and only a few hairlines. Light clash marks on both sides. This is a very scarce date that is seldom seen finer than this.

525. **1867, Choice Proof.** 625 Proofs minted. Very boldly struck with a square edge and a prominent wire rim. Superb light to medium blue and gold toning, a few scattered hairlines. Purchased by JJP from an unknown auction as Lot 512 for \$38.

VERY RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1867-S HALF DIME



526. **1867-S, Gem Uncirculated.** A magnificent, frosty specimen that is certainly one of the finest examples known. It is well struck, except for the characteristic weakness in the denticles, and has beautiful satiny surfaces that have attractive natural reddish-gold and iridescent toning. There are a few trivial marks in the right obverse field, but they are largely concealed by the toning, and the coin is otherwise pristine and unmarked. In this condition, the 1867-S is a very rare issue; as Breen notes in his Encyclopedia, "Usually in low grades, very rare Choice".

527. **1868, Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Light reddish-gold toning with a touch of violet. A few scattered marks and hairlines, but the coin is still very nearly in the Choice category. Purchased 5/64 from a Jim Charlton sale, Lot 214, for \$65.

528. **1868-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Medium gray and gold toning, a bit on the dull side. Struck from a badly damaged reverse die showing numerous die breaks near the lower portion of the wreath and through the mintmark, and virtually no detail at the denticles. Obviously, this is a very late die state and it is doubtful that many additional coins could have been struck from this broken reverse die.

529. **1871-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** but undoubtedly cleaned at one time. The coin now has very vivid reddish-gold, violet and blue toning, particularly intense on the obverse; the reverse has lighter multicolored toning around the periphery. There are light hairlines and marks in the fields.



530. 1872, Very Choice Proof. 950 Proofs minted. Attractive light to medium blue-green and reddish-gold toning, the deepest, most vivid shades on the reverse. Purchased from Lester Merkin's September 1968 sale, Lot 261, for \$65.

531. 1873, Proof. 600 Proofs minted. Dull, medium blue-gray and gold toning with some multicolored hues near the reverse border. Purchased by JJP for \$35 from Abner Kreisberg's 2/18/61 sale, Lot 2519.

U.S. DIMES

BEAUTIFULLY TONED 1796 DIME

JR-3 Variety, 2nd Rarest Variety of 1796



532. 1796, Four Berries, John Reich-3. Rarity-5. Uncirculated. Sharply struck and well centered with superb natural toning. On the obverse, the toning is mostly blue-green and gold; on the reverse, there are also splashes of violet and reddish-gold in the center. This coin is a lustrous, attractive specimen with only a few spots and minor handling marks in the fields. There is a noticeable die break at T2 on the reverse; the first part of it runs from a denticle through the left flag of the T down to the wreath and eagle's wing, the second part from the right side of the T up to a denticle above A1. Purchased by JJP

in June 1945 from B.A. Seaby Ltd. in London, England, for the equivalent of \$30.

The superbly done John Reich Collectors Society book on Early Dimes, written by Davis, Logan, Lovejoy, McCloskey and Subjack (hereinafter referred to as "J.R."), notes that this is the second rarest 1796 variety with a frequency of appearance of only 5 percent of all 1796 Dimes; it was absent from the famous Eliasberg Collection. The J.R. reference notes that at least two exist in MS-60 or better condition, but they were not aware of this particular specimen. They also note that the finest they had seen (as of 1984) was MS-63. Based on these comments, the Pittman specimen is apparently in the Condition Census for the variety.

BORDERLINE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1797 16 STARS DIME

Possibly The Second Finest Known Example



533. 1797, 16 Stars, Pointed 9, JR-1. **Rarity-4.** Very Choice Uncirculated, a virtual Gem. Very sharply struck with excellent centering and broad, even denticles all around. A lustrous, original specimen with superb light reddish-gold toning. The obverse is mostly frosty, the reverse semi-prooflike and of Gem quality. The diagnostic obverse die break runs from a denticle near star 3, through stars 1 and 2, across the bottom curl and the tops of 17 to the drapery, and ends at a denticle below the final star. There is also a tiny semi-circular raised area in front of the junction of the forehead and top hair curl of Miss Liberty; it was present in the die and appears to be an additional hair curl or portion thereof. Many of the stars show recutting and this is very evident on stars 10 through 14. There is also recutting on the E and T in LIBERTY. On the reverse, there is a diagonal die crack running through the right ribbon. Above the T in

LIBERTY (near the denticles), there is a small spot, but the coin really has only a few very trivial hairlines and marks. JJP purchased this coin as Lot 145 from the famous Menjou sale, 6/15/50, for \$180 on an estimate of only \$125.

The J.R. reference notes that approximately 55 percent of all 1797 Dimes are this JR-1 variety, making it slightly less rare than 1797 JR-2 which is the 13 Stars variety. This is clearly a Condition Census piece, quite possibly the second finest known after the James A. Stack specimen, and actually very close in overall quality to the Stack coin. It is definitely better than the Bareford example and the Auction '80 specimen, the latter mentioned as the, "Finest Seen", by the J.R. authors. JJP describes this coin on his inventory envelope as, "Superb Unc. Gem, Proof surface. Believed to be the finest known specimen." Whenever JJP displayed it (the last time at the 1991 ANA Centennial Convention in Chicago), this 1797 Dime always attracted a great deal of attention, and it is certainly one of the highlights of his outstanding Dime collection.

RARE AND CHOICE 1798/7 16 STARS DIME



534. 1798/7, 16 Stars Above Eagle, JR-1. **Rarity-3.** Choice Uncirculated. Well struck and perfectly centered. Superb medium sunset toning with lovely shades of greenish-gold, violet and blue. There are a few tiny marks on Liberty's jaw, largely concealed by the toning, but the fields are remarkably clean. A tiny die break from star 10 on the reverse extends horizontally over the eagle's head, and most of the stars above the eagle show prominent recutting. Purchased for \$76 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/47, Lot 672.

According to J.R., this is the second most common variety of 1798, with a frequency of appearance of about 40 percent of all specimens. This coin, like many of JJP's early Dimes, is clearly in the Condition Census for this variety.

VERY RARE 1798/7 13 STARS DIME



535. 1798/7, 13 Stars Above Eagle, JR-2. **Rarity-6.** Extremely Fine. Weakly struck in the centers, but sharply struck elsewhere. Heavy die clashing on the obverse around the bust and date. Medium blue and reddish-gold color; moderately hairlined, especially on the reverse. Quite likely the coin was cleaned sometime in the past. According to J.R., this is the rarest 1798 variety and one of the rarest Bust type Dimes, with a frequency of appearance of only about 5 percent of all 1798 Dimes. JJP paid \$36 for this coin at Barney Bluestone's 102nd sale, 7/48, Lot 166.

UNCIRCULATED 1798 JR-4 DIME



536. 1798, Medium 8, JR-4. **Rarity-3.** Uncirculated. Quite sharply struck in the centers of the coin, but weak at the borders, particularly at the left obverse stars. The coin has medium toning in shades of blue, violet and reddish-gold. The characteristic die break runs from a denticle above and to the left of Y in LIBERTY, through the base of the Y down to Liberty's nose. Another break runs from the chin diagonally into the field in the direction of star 13. On the reverse, there is a large die break connecting the second

feather of the left wing to the rim as well as die breaks on the rim above ES OF. There is a curved lint mark above and to the left of the F in OF and connected to the upright of the F. This is the most common 1798 Dime, but it is still a very scarce date in Mint State. Undoubtedly, this coin is one of the finest 10-12 specimens known. Purchased 12/8/45 from Barney Bluestone's 90th sale. The coin realized \$76 at the sale and appeared as Lot 539.



537. 1800, JR-2. **Rarity-5. Choice Very Fine.** Sharply struck and well centered. Medium toning in shades of blue, violet and greenish-gold. Light marks throughout the fields, the two most prominent of which are in front of Liberty's forehead just below the Y of LIBERTY. There is a die chip between 1 and 8 of the date and a raised dot above the lowest curl. A tiny spine runs from the right tip of the shield diagonally into the field. The eagle's upper and lower beaks both solidly touch the 12th star. This is the rarer of the two varieties of 1800, a date which is one of the most underrated of all early Dimes. Purchased by JJP from a James Kelly auction, 11/2/57, Lot 787, for \$100 on an estimate of \$125. JJP's notes also indicate that it was previously in the E.W. Lister Collection.

538. 1801, JR-2. **Rarity-5. Very Fine.** Medium gray and gold toning. Softly struck in the centers, particularly above the eagle's head, where stars 3 and 9 are very weak and star 4 is completely missing. Heavy die rust pits in the reverse field above the top leaves of the branch, below E in AMERICA. There is also a curving die break running from the bottom of E3 through the top leaf of the branch to the edge of the shield. A couple of light marks are noted in the fields and on the rim, as well as one heavy abrasion just above the eagle's head. This piece was purchased by JJP for \$105 on 11/2/57 from a James Kelly sale where it appeared as Lot 788; it was previously in the E.W. Lister Collection.

This JR-2 variety of 1801 is considerably more rare than JR-1 with a total population ratio between the two varieties of roughly 2 to 1. For some reason, the 1801 and the 1800 have not received the attention they deserve considering their rarity; both dates are very rare and seldom available in any grade.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1802 DIME

One Of The Two Finest Known Specimens of JR-4



539. 1802, JR-4. **Rarity-4. Uncirculated,** very nearly in the Choice category, and one of the two finest specimens known. Only the Lovejoy-Bareford-Menjou coin seems to rival this coin in terms of overall quality. The coin is softly struck in the centers, as are all known specimens, but it is fully prooflike, well centered, and has beautiful light gold and tarnish type toning. The fields are quite clean except for one small scrape from Liberty's lower lip toward the 11th star, and one tiny hairline from her forehead to the 9th star. There is doubling at the base of the T in LIBERTY and a long vertical lump or die break running the entire height of the L in LIBERTY. There is a small die lump or chip in the field just below and left of the lower

ribbon in Liberty's hair. The prooflike fields have radiant luster, and the coin is totally original and of exceptional overall quality for this very rare date. Although the J.R. reference work on Early Dimes notes that this is the most common 1802 variety, with a frequency of appearance of about 60 percent of all 1802 Dimes, the authors also note that it is rare in EF-40 or better, with no more than three specimens existing in MS-60 or higher grade. JJP's notes refer to this coin as a, "Brilliant Uncirculated Gem with Proof surface", and further indicate that he paid the Numismatic Gallery \$95 for it on 12/4/47, although even at the time of purchase he considered it, "Worth \$150".

UNDERRATED 1803 DIME



540. 1803, JR-2. **Rarity-6. Extremely Fine.** Warm gray and gold toning. The obverse is struck more sharply than usual and the reverse is almost fully struck. The coin has very few marks other than what one normally would expect for the grade, and it is definitely one of the finest known examples of the date and variety. On the reverse, there is a die break running from cloud 6 past stars 6, 11 and 13 to the ribbon edge above UNUM. It then continues down through the shield, eagle's left claw, and arrows to the rim. Another die break runs from a denticle past the left

side of the E in UNITED, through the eagle's feathers to the left edge of the shield; there is also a fine break connecting the tops of TED in UNITED. Yet another break runs from a denticle through ICA of AMERICA. There is also a die rust pit at the center of the 3 in the date. The J.R. reference notes that this is the second rarest variety of 1803 with a frequency of appearance of about 5 percent of all known 1803 Dimes. JJP purchased this coin for \$135 (on an estimate of \$150) from James Kelly's 11/2/57 sale where it appeared as Lot 790.

VERY RARE 1804 13 STARS DIME



541. 1804, 13 Stars On Reverse, JR-1. **Rarity-5. Extremely Fine.** Five berries on olive branch. Sharply struck and well centered. Beautiful warm reddish-gold, violet and blue toning. Sharp nick on the obverse rim near the tip of the bust. There is one scratch running vertically from the eagle's neck through the horizontal lines of the shield, but the fields are otherwise quite clean. Stars 4, 5, 6 and 10 above the eagle are weak, the others quite sharp. As a

variety, this is about twice as common as the 14 star variety. Both as a date rarity and as a condition rarity, the 1804 is the premier date of this type since it is unknown (either variety) in full Mint State. This is one of the finest examples known of the date and variety. Purchased by JJP for \$61 from Barney Bluestone's 90th sale, 12/45, where it appeared as Lot 1341.

INCREDIBLE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1805 DIME

JR-2, Four Berries Reverse



542. 1805, Four Berries, JR-2. Rarity-2. Gem Uncirculated.

This is an absolutely spectacular quality early Dime that certainly has to rank as one of the finest known specimens of both the date and type. It is fully struck, lustrous and well centered, but what sets this coin apart are its immaculate satiny surfaces and incredible multicolored toning, a gorgeous blend of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The coin is pristine and literally "as struck", except for the addition over the intervening 192 years of the incredible toning. The reverse is rotated approximately 45° clockwise from normal alignment. There are areas of noticeable die rust on the reverse in and around the letters of UNITED, the most prominent of which are near the border to the right of the D. There is a die break running from a denticle above the B in LIBERTY through the top of E, the middle of R, and then through the top of TY. Luster under the toning is fantastic, and it is really

hard to overstate the quality of this coin. Anyone wanting a nearly perfect early Dime type coin, or putting together the ultimate date collection of early Dimes, need look no further than this particular example. Purchased for \$27 from Barney Bluestone's 90th sale, 12/45, Lot 349, where Bluestone noted that it was, "Struck as sharp as a cameo. One of the finest known."

The 1805 and the 1807 are the two most common date early Dimes of this type, and this variety is the more common of the two varieties of 1805. Still, in Gem condition, any early Draped Bust Dime is rare. When JJP last publicly displayed this coin at the 1991 ANA Centennial Convention in Chicago, it drew a tremendous amount of attention (as did his 1797 Dime). Various dealers offered to purchase the entire display or this one piece in particular. JJP obviously never considered such an offer, and only smiled and said that it was, "Not for sale". Fortunately for collectors, now the 1805 Dime is for sale, after 52 years in this great collection.

SPECTACULAR GEM MINT STATE 1807 DIME

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



543. 1807, JR-1. Rarity-2. Gem Uncirculated. As is almost always the case, this coin was struck from heavily clashed dies, the clashing most evident at the date and in the right obverse field near the chin, throat and bust. It is also very weak at the rims, and the stars at the left are flat. Nevertheless, the condition of this coin is absolutely remarkable, not very far from the quality of the preceding 1805. It is nearly pristine and "as struck", except for the addition of absolutely gorgeous blue and greenish-gold toning over the last 190 years. The coin has no marks and only a couple of very faint hairlines. Although this is the most common of the early Draped Bust Dimes, one rarely sees an 1807 with this overall look and quality. It is certainly in the Condition Census, possibly even the finest known, and although I have seen a small number of other Gem Uncirculated 1807 Dimes, I cannot recall ever seeing one as attractive as this. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 91st sale, 2/46, Lot 1229, for \$10.75.

TONED GEM UNCIRCULATED 1809 DIME

One Of The Two Finest Known Specimens



544. 1809, JR-1. **Rarity-4.** **Gem Uncirculated**, despite a short horizontal hairline on Liberty's face, and a small mark at the corner of her mouth. There is a die lump on Liberty's cheek just below and to the left of the curl near the ear. The coin is sharply struck, except for the usual weakness on several obverse stars, and the characteristic weakness at the denticles above UNITED STATES. It has absolutely superb medium toning, a blend of violet, blue, reddish-gold and russet, as well as radiant mint luster beneath the

toning. This is one of the two finest 1809 Dimes known, and is of similar quality to the Gem specimen I catalogued for Paramount in Auction '79 that later appeared in the Lovejoy Collection sale (Stack's 10/90), Lot 31. It is somewhat finer than the Bareford coin and, by a large margin, surpasses both the Norweb and Eliasberg examples. The J.R. reference notes that this issue is, "Extremely rare in Mint State." This coin was purchased by JJP for \$65 from Barney Bluestone's 93rd sale, 6/46, Lot 917.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1811/9 DIME



545. 1811/9, JR-1. **Rarity-3.** **Very Choice Uncirculated**, if not a full Gem. Sharply struck from cracked, buckled and heavily clashed dies. The buckling is very noticeable above Liberty's head, causing a distinct weakness on the cap and at the denticles above it, as well as the corresponding place on the reverse, namely the C in the denomination and the arrows. This piece represents the same late die state as the Eliasberg coin. Numerous die breaks criss-cross the reverse indicating that the die was nearly shattered when this coin was struck; the die could not have

lasted very long afterward. The coin has full brilliance with just a trace of light reddish-gold toning in and around the date, obverse stars, and reverse legend. There are virtually no marks, scratches or hairlines of any kind on the surfaces, and the coin is superb in many respects, certainly one of the finer specimens known. Not quite as rare a date as the 1809, particularly in high grade, but still very difficult to obtain in full Mint State. Purchased by JJP from James Kelly's 11/2/57 sale, Lot 796, for \$105.



546. **1814, Large Date, JR-3. Rarity-2. Uncirculated.** No Period after C. Sharply struck and well centered. Beautiful sunset toning with shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue-green; some faint hairlines are seen under the toning. There is a network of die cracks within the reverse shield as well as one tiny crack running from the edge of the eagle's neck, through the beak, and continuing to the scroll below U in PLURIBUS. The coin has very noticeable clash marks on the obverse, especially at Liberty's face near the 5th and 6th stars. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 90th sale, 12/45, Lot 1355, for \$6.25.



547. **1820, Small 0 In Date, JR-2. Rarity-3. Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with attractive, but somewhat irregular medium multicolored toning. This is the popular "Office Boy" variety, so-called due to the multiple recuttings in the reverse legend. Some light hairlines are visible under the toning, but very few marks.

548. **1820, Small 0 In Date, JR-11. Rarity-3. Almost Uncirculated.** Small C in denomination. Well struck and perfectly centered. Attractive, but rather dull and smoky reddish-gold toning with some greenish-gold highlights. Purchased by JJP as Lot 800 from James Kelly's 11/2/57 sale for \$41.

549. **1820, Large 0 In Date, JR-13. Rarity-2. Extremely Fine.** Hazy light sunset toning in shades of greenish-gold, russet, blue and violet. Bluntly struck on Liberty's head, fairly sharp elsewhere. Several tiny rim nicks as well as some light hairlines in the fields. Purchased from Jim Kelly's 11/2/57 sale, Lot 799, for \$15.



550. **1821, Large Date, Curved Base 2, JR-7. Rarity-2. Choice Almost Uncirculated.** A lustrous, well struck, nicely centered specimen with beautiful light greenish-gold, russet and blue toning. Several small rim nicks, including one

noticeable one on the rim above the 8th star. Some light hairlines and handling marks in the fields. A fine die break connects the lowest arrowhead to a denticle; another die break runs from the top left leaf of the branch to the eagle's wing tip. JJP purchased this coin for \$10.50 from Barney Bluestone's 90th sale, 12/8/45, Lot 350(A), where it was catalogued as a Gem.



551. **1821, Small Date, Square Base 2, JR-9. Rarity-2. Choice Almost Uncirculated,** nearly Mint State. Similar in overall quality and appearance to the preceding. The coin is sharply struck and well centered with beautiful multicolored russet, greenish-gold and blue toning. It has full frosty mint luster and no serious marks worth mentioning, but there are a few light hairlines in the fields. Acquired 10/47 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, Lot 509, for \$12.50.

552. **1822, JR-1. Rarity-4. Good,** from the standpoint of overall wear, but the coin has fairly prominent damage on both obverse and reverse. It has also been cleaned and now has dull, irregular multicolored toning.



553. **1823/2, Small E's In Legend, JR-1. Rarity-3. Uncirculated.** Generally well struck except for the typical weakness on the hair curls around the face. Beautiful multicolored obverse toning with shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The reverse is lighter in color, but with vivid shades near the border. There is a scratch on Liberty's face as well as some light handling marks in the fields. There is also a die break on the obverse rim that joins the two denticles over the 10th star. This is a very scarce issue in full Mint State. Purchased from David Bullowa on 9/27/47 for \$10.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1824/2 DIME



554. 1824/2, JR-1. **Rarity-3.** Very Choice Uncirculated. A beautiful specimen with full frosty mint luster and superb medium multi-colored toning with various shades of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. Generally very well struck and perfectly centered, although the coin does have the characteristic weakness on the hair curls around Liberty's face. The overdate is prominent with portions of the original 2 clearly visible under the 4. This coin could easily be called a Gem on first impression. Close inspection, however, shows a few very light hairlines as well as a couple of tiny marks on

the neck which, for me, keep it out of the Gem category. Others may feel differently and call it a full Gem. Purchased privately from George Bauer, 6/46, for \$13.50.

On the reverse, a die break connects the U of UNITED to the top leaf of the second pair on the branch, as well as to NIT. A faint die break connects the bases of ITED. Another die break connects the open bud to the leaf and then to the tops of the 10 and C of the denomination, continuing on to the lowest arrowhead. On the obverse, there is a small diagonal defect between the 5th and 6th stars. This coin is certainly in the Condition Census for this date, and probably ranks in the top 3-4 specimens known. This has always been an underrated issue, and Mint State examples are very rare.

FLAWLESS GEM PROOF 1825 JR-2 DIME

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



555. 1825, JR-2. **Rarity-2 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof.** **Gem Proof.** Unbelievable! There is simply no other way to describe this coin. It is, without question, the most beautiful, nearly flawless Proof Dime of this type that I have ever seen. The strike is just a little soft in the centers, but it is very sharp elsewhere; in particular, all of the stars have all of their radial lines and central points. The fields are deep mirrors and literally perfect, without hairlines or impairments of any kind. Adding further to this coin's desirability is the literally breathtaking toning which is a light reddish-gold and violet in the centers, turning to deeper shades of blue and greenish-gold at the borders. The denticles are broad, well defined and, in many cases, separated; each segment of the milling is very sharp and distinct. The edge is square and, despite the slight softness in the central area, there is absolutely no question about this coin's Proof status, something that cannot be said for

several of the "Proof" 1825 JR-2 Dimes that I have seen. Although this will not be the highest priced coin in this collection, it is definitely one of the most memorable. JJP purchased it for \$165 from the New Netherlands 50th sale, 12/6/57, Lot 382. Earlier it was in the famous George Earle sale of 1912 where it was Lot 3172.

The authors of the standard reference Early United States Dimes 1796-1837 note, "At least seven proofs reported. Finest seen is Proof-63", the Bareford coin. As I said, I have seen several called "Proof" in major sales that were not true Proofs, so the number in existence may be fewer than reported, perhaps only four or five. This coin is far superior to the Bareford coin and it also surpasses the Norweb example, there called "finest", and noted as only the second Proof confirmed. The latter comment seems to support my contention that fewer than the seven reported to the authors of J.R. actually exist. Furthermore, it seems certain that this Pittman specimen is the finest known Proof 1825 Dime. How could another possibly be better?

POSSIBLY FINEST KNOWN
1825 JR-4 DIME



556. **1825, JR-4.** **Rarity-2. Very Choice Uncirculated,** if not a full Gem. Sharply struck and perfectly centered with frosty mint luster and superb multicolored toning, deeper on the obverse with shades of pale reddish-gold in the center blending to violet, blue and greenish-gold at the border, and mostly lighter gold on the reverse with some darker shades of blue and violet near the rim. A die break connects stars 3 through 7 at the left, and another connects all of the stars from star 8 to star 13 at the right. On the reverse, there is evidence of die rust between D in UNITED and the first S in STATES. The J.R. reference notes that this is a fairly common variety, but the authors also indicate that the finest they had seen when the book was written in 1984 was only the MS-60 specimen from Stack's sale of the Robison Collection, a coin which later appeared in the Lovejoy Collection sale. This specimen is significantly finer than that coin and, therefore, a candidate for finest known. Purchased 9/27/47 from David Bullowa for \$7.75.



557. **1827, JR-6.** **Rarity-2. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck, except for a little weakness on the eagle's head; perfectly centered. Lustrous, satiny surfaces with unusual, mottled multicolored toning. A few light hairlines in the fields, but virtually no marks of any consequence. The toning has beautiful shades of violet, russet, gold and blue, and very intense reddish-brown near the reverse border. Authors of the J.R. reference indicate that, as of 1984, the finest specimen they had seen was MS-60. However, in 1987, the Norweb specimen appeared at auction and was later certified a Gem (MS-65). It subsequently sold in the Allen Lovejoy Collection sale in 1990. It is the finest known, but this coin is still surely in the Condition Census. Acquired from the 1948 Dr. C. A. Allenburger sale (Mehl, Lot 835) as a Proof for \$12.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF
1827 JR-12 DIME

Only Two Or Three Specimens Known



558. **1827, JR-12.** **Rarity-1 as variety, Rarity-8 as Proof. Gem Proof.** A magnificent coin with absolutely superb toning, a mix of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The fields are deeply mirrorlike, particularly so on the obverse. Not quite fully struck, displaying some weakness on the left obverse stars and on portions of the eagle. There is a tiny lump in the field near a denticle to the right of the 7th star, and there is also a planchet anomaly between stars 8 and 9. This coin has a sharp square edge, and broad even denticles all around, especially on the obverse. It is a solid Gem, very nearly equal in overall quality to the 1825 Proof offered in Lot 555, and certainly one of the finest Proof Dimes of this type known. Purchased by JJP in 1952 from Mike Kolman for \$21.50.

Authors of the J.R. reference note, "Two proof specimens reported, one in the Eliasberg Collection; none seen by authors." If this is one of the two Proofs reported to them, then this specimen and the Eliasberg coin are possibly the only two Proofs of JR-12 known. However, I do not believe that JJP's Dimes (or any of his coins for that matter) have been attributed until now, so it is likely that this is the third Proof known of this variety.

559. 1828, Small Date, Square Base 2, JR-1. **Rarity-2. Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now with irregular medium multicolored toning. There is also a scratch on the reverse near the eagle's neck.

RARE MINT STATE 1828 LARGE DATE DIME



560. 1828, Large Date, Curved Base 2, JR-2. **Rarity-3. Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck, except on the 13th star and the eagle's head. Lustrous, frosty surfaces with beautiful medium toning. On the obverse, the toning is in shades of blue, greenish-gold, russet and violet, while the reverse is a warmer shade of russet and violet. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but no marks or impairments otherwise. A diagonal die scratch runs from the top left curve of the first 8 in the date toward the bust; it is not mentioned in J.R. The J.R. authors comment, "A scarce variety... A few specimens in MS-60 exist. Finest seen is MS-65 (Scanlon-Lovejoy)." JJP paid \$35 for this coin at a James Kelly auction on 11/2/57 where it appeared as Lot 812. Note: The Eliasberg Gem is the finest I have ever seen of this rare issue; it is much nicer than the Scanlon-Lovejoy coin. This Pittman specimen is certainly one of the finest known of the variety, perhaps even in the Condition Census.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1829 DIME



561. 1829, Large 10 C, JR-2. **Rarity-2. Gem Uncirculated.** A gorgeous specimen, somewhat softly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face, but very bold elsewhere. The stars, in particular, are very sharp with all of them having their full radial lines and central points. The toning is a beautiful light multicolored iridescent color, and the fields are

semi-prooflike and literally without flaws of any kind. This is the second most common variety of 1829, and a number of Mint State specimens are known, including several Gems (cf. Eliasberg: 1083). There is a network of tiny die breaks just beginning on the obverse. The first runs from a denticle to the 1st star which in turn connects to the bust and then to the 1 and 8 in the date. From another point of that 1st star, a die break connects stars 2 and 3, then curves across the field to Liberty's nose and eye. There is also a die break from the denticle below 9 to the base of the 9, and then from the top of the 9 to the hair curl. On the reverse, a tiny die break connects the bottom of the F in OF to AME of AMERICA. Another connects T2 to a denticle, and yet another tiny break connects D of UNITED to S1. The Eliasberg coin was the same die state (and quality) as this superb piece. JJP paid \$37 for this coin when he purchased it from the New Netherlands 52nd sale, 12/13/58, Lot 425, where it was part of the Elliot Landau Collection.

POSSIBLE PROOF 1829 DIME



562. 1829, Small 10 C, JR-3. **Rarity-4 as Variety, Rarity-7 as Proof.** Uncirculated, fully Prooflike, or possibly Proof (per New Netherlands). In my opinion, this coin is a Mint State coin, but it does have fully prooflike fields, even within the eagle's shield on the reverse. Furthermore, it was examined closely and catalogued as a Proof by the New Netherlands staff (one of the finest and most expert ever assembled, principally John J. Ford and Walter Breen) for the sale of the Elliot Landau Collection on 12/13/58, Lot 426. JJP purchased the coin at that sale for \$35. The coin has a very choice, mirrorlike reverse with superb multicolored iridescent toning. The obverse, however, is slightly impaired with some hairlines and contact marks in the fields and on the face. There is doubling clearly evident on the 1 and 0 in the denomination on the reverse.

As a business strike, this is a very scarce variety that the authors of the J.R. reference note is, "Difficult to locate above VF-30", with the finest seen being the MS-63 Bareford specimen. They also note, "Two Proofs reported from these dies; none seen by the authors." Since this specimen is from a well known sale, it is possibly one of the Proof specimens reported but, as indicated, I do not believe it to be a true Proof. Others, however, may disagree and they may be justified in doing so because the coin does have many of the characteristics of a Proof.

SUPERB 1829 JR-7 DIME

Possibly Finest Known of Variety



563. 1829, JR-7. **Rarity-1.** Gem Uncirculated. Small 10 C. A stunning coin with a razor sharp strike, lustrous, semi-prooflike fields, and the most beautiful toning imaginable, a medium to deep blend of violet, blue and greenish-gold. The reverse is rotated approximately 45° clockwise from normal alignment. This is the most common variety of 1829, but the authors of the J.R. reference note that the finest they had seen as of 1984 was only an MS-63 specimen in a private collection. They also indicate

that at least six specimens exist in MS-60 or better. This coin is far better than MS-63 and is actually very high in the Gem category. It would be difficult to imagine a more nearly perfect 1829 Dime of any variety than this one. JJP purchased this from Barney Bluestone's 90th sale on 12/9/45 as Lot 350(C) for \$5.25, where it was described as, "A magnificent coin, just as perfect as the day it was coined, and struck as sharp as a cameo."

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1830 JR-6 DIME



564. 1830, Medium 10 C, JR-6. **Rarity-2 as variety, High Rarity-7 as Proof.** Choice Proof or better. Well struck, except for a weakness on the hair curl below B in LIBERTY, and on the arrow feathers and eagle's claws. Deep mirror fields, even within the shield, and a very broad square edge. Superb sunset toning, beautiful reddish-gold highlighted with violet and a touch of blue and green. There are just a few very light hairlines in the fields under the toning, as well as several tiny marks in the field behind Liberty's cap. There is a tiny die break connecting the two knobs of the 3 and another fine die break running from the ribbon down through the hair curls to the rim below the 13th star. This is a fairly common variety, but a scarce one in Mint State with the

finest seen as of 1984 only MS-63. (However, in 1987, the Gem Norweb specimen was attributed as JR-6 and sold at public auction.) In Proof, this variety is Extremely Rare, and the J.R. authors state that, "Three Proofs have been reported; none seen by the authors." This could be one of the ones reported since it comes from the famous Dr. Christian Allenburger sale held by B. Max Mehl in March 1948 where it appeared as Lot 867 and realized \$8.65. However, I am not aware of any of JJP's Dimes ever being attributed prior to now, so it is more likely that this is a previously "unknown" Proof 1830 JR-6 Dime. One of the Proofs was in the Louis Eliasberg, Sr. Collection sale, Lot 1089, and another was in the James A. Stack sale, Lot 40.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1830 JR-6 DIME

Possibly Second Finest Known Business Strike



565. 1830, Medium 10C, JR-6. Rarity-2. Very Choice Uncirculated or better. Superb medium multicolored toning, a blend of russet, blue and greenish-gold on the obverse, and lighter shades of the same colors on the reverse, mostly about the periphery. The coin is frosty and well struck. (Surprisingly, it is actually a bit more sharply struck than the Proof in Lot 564. It is also an earlier state of the dies without the tiny die break at the 3, and a less pronounced die crack from the ribbon.) With the authors of the J.R. reference having noted that the finest Mint State specimen they had seen as of 1984 was MS-63, it is clear that this coin ranks solidly in the Condition Census, perhaps even second finest known after the Gem Norweb coin. Purchased 7/23/46 from the New Netherlands 24th sale (as a Proof), Lot 858, for \$2.75.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1831 JR-2 DIME



566. 1831, JR-2. Rarity-3 as variety, Rarity-7 as Proof. Choice Proof. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields, even within the shield on the reverse, and very attractive natural golden toning with some iridescent violet and blue at the periphery. The fields have a few very light hairlines, but no marks, scratches or major impairments. There are some tiny die scratches near the date as well as one small lint mark at a denticle below the date between 8 and 3. The dies show evidence of incomplete polishing on the reverse around the letters in the legend. Acquired 6/47

from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection. The coin was Lot 1229 in that great sale and realized \$20.

The J.R. authors note that at least three Proofs have been seen from this pair of dies, and I would actually place the number known more in the range of 6-8 specimens. The James A. Stack specimen, the Norweb-Auction '89 coin, and the Auction '79 example were all Proofs of this variety, and all Very Choice to Gem quality; the Lovejoy Proof was comparable in quality to this Pittman coin which is the 5th distinct specimen I know of. More than likely, a few others exist.



567. 1831, JR-5. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated. Very boldly struck with lustrous, semi-prooflike fields, and superb medium multi-colored toning blending shades of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The date has been double punched and there are clash marks at Liberty's ear. Light handling marks in the fields on the obverse, but the reverse is literally of Gem quality with especially beautiful toning.



568. 1832, JR-2. Rarity-2. Very Choice Uncirculated, possibly a full Gem; certainly the reverse is a Gem without any question. The coin has spectacular toning. On the obverse, it is a cool blend of blue, greenish-gold and violet, while on the reverse there are much warmer shades of reddish-gold in the center, blending to violet and then blue at the rim. A3 in AMERICA is barely visible, possibly from something adhering to the die when the coin was struck. Purchased 7/46 from the New Netherlands 24th sale, Lot 861, for \$2.60, there described as a Proof.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1833 JR-2 DIME

The Second Known Example



569. 1833, JR-2. **Rarity-5 as variety, Rarity-8 as Proof.** **Brilliant Proof**, nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with as deeply mirrorlike fields as I have ever seen on any Proof Dime of this era. This variety has a prominent die break that more or less bisects the obverse, running diagonally from the cap through the B in LIBERTY, down through the hair curls to a denticle midway between the date and the 13th star. Tiny die breaks also connect both knobs of each of the 3's in the date. The coin is fully brilliant with light multicolored peripheral toning and light to moderate hairlines, mostly on the obverse. This is another rare Proof obtained by

JJP from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Christian Allenburger Collection in March 1948. The coin was offered as Lot 896 and purchased by JJP for \$16.75.

This specimen is only the second Proof known of this variety, the other appearing in the legendary Floyd Starr sale (Stack's, 10/92, Lot 357) where it was described as Unique, a reasonable statement considering that the cataloguer had no way of knowing that the Pittman Collection also contained an example. This is one of the many coins in the Pittman Collection that will be overshadowed by later and greater rarities to follow, but this coin actually ranks as one of the rarest items in the entire collection. Even as a business strike, this is a very rare variety, especially in higher grades, with the Lovejoy Collection Mint State coin undoubtedly the finest known, and possibly the only known Unc.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1833 DIME



570. 1833, JR-10. **Rarity-3.** **Choice Uncirculated.** A sharply struck, frosty specimen with full mint luster and beautiful sea green, violet, blue and russet toning. There are clash marks around the eagle on the reverse, none on the obverse; a tiny hairline die break connects stars 3, 4 and 5. On the reverse, there is a die break from a denticle to A1, then to the scroll; another runs from the rim to the top leaf of the pair farthest left. There are also a number of letters in the legend recut. This was one of JJP's early purchases, acquired from Barney Bluestone in 11/43 for \$1.50.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1834 DIME



571. 1834, Large Perfect 4, JR-1. **Rarity-1.** **Gem Uncirculated.** A gorgeous original coin with a very sharp strike, full frosty mint luster, and superb medium multicolored toning, a delightful blend of gold, russet and pale blue-green. On the reverse, below the C in the denomination, there is a slight rim defect, "as made". A very fine hairline die break connects the tip of Liberty's draped bust to the seven stars on the left side, the break between stars 6 and 7 extremely faint. Purchased 5/44 from the New Netherlands 17th sale, Lot 833, for \$2.80.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1834 JR-6 DIME

One Of Only 3-4 Proofs Known Of This Variety



572. 1834, Large 4, No Crossbar, JR-6. Rarity-2 as variety, High Rarity-7, possibly even Rarity-8, as Proof. Gem Proof. Similar in overall quality and appearance to the fabulous 1825 offered in Lot 555. This coin has a full strike, deep mirror fields, and absolutely superb toning with shades of deep blue, violet and gold predominating. The surfaces of the coin are very clean and do not have any hairlines or impairments whatsoever. There is, however, a tiny flaw on the obverse rim, "as made", at the 4th star. On this variety, the Large 4 is imperfect with a missing crossbar. (It does not extend out to the right of the upright of the 4.) On the reverse, there are a number of very tiny hairline die breaks, one from the middle arrowhead to the rim, others from each lower leaf pair to the rim. From the top leaves at the left, tiny die breaks connect to the wing and then to the U of UNITED. Another

die break connects the bases of ITE, and yet another connects the upper left corner of the D to a denticle above it. Moving further along the legend, a tiny break connects the top of A1 in AMERICA to a denticle, and there is another die break through the M to the E and then the R of AMERICA. This coin is exceptional in all respects and is certainly one of the finest Proof Small Size Bust Dimes in existence, regardless of date or variety. JJP purchased this coin for \$25 from Mr. O.K. Rumbel of Mission, Texas, the date of purchase not recorded.

In the J.R. reference, the authors state, "Proofs have been reported but none have been seen by the authors." Breen, in his Encyclopedia, also notes that at least three Proofs have been reported, but does not indicate that he had ever seen one. The Floyd Starr Proof, Lot 3581, was also JR-6, not JR-4 as catalogued, but I cannot find a definite record of another, although from reports, they may exist.

CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1835 DIME



573. 1835, JR-1. Rarity-1. Choice Uncirculated, despite a fairly prominent mark on Liberty's face. The balance of the coin is clean and relatively unmarked with only a few light hairlines on the obverse. The strike is very sharp and the toning is a superb blend of russet, blue, violet and greenish-gold. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$1.50.



574. 1835, JR-5. Rarity-1. Uncirculated. Sharply struck with considerable prooflike fields evident, especially on the obverse. They have, however, light to moderate hairlines. The coin has very attractive peripheral toning, blue-green with a touch of violet. Purchased by JJP as a Proof and often displayed with his 1835 Proof coins. However, there is no doubt that this coin is a prooflike Uncirculated coin as opposed to a true Proof. JJP acquired this coin as Lot 1235 from the Will W. Neil Collection sale, 6/47, for \$11.50.

575. 1836, JR-3. Rarity-3. Uncirculated. Vivid multicolored toning. Light hairlines and handling marks throughout the fields. Recutting at the bottom and left side of T3 on the reverse. The top arrowshaft is broken or detached. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$1.50.

POSSIBLE PROOF 1837 JR-4 DIME



576. 1837, Bust Type, JR-4. Rarity-1 as Variety, Rarity-8 as Proof. **Brilliant Uncirculated, Prooflike, or possibly Proof.** This coin is almost fully prooflike, but there is an area of unfinished die polishing around Liberty's profile and neck, as well as below the eagle's left wing. Inside the shield, however, the surface is fully mirrorlike and the coin certainly has many Proof characteristics. I personally feel that the coin is a prooflike business strike, but others may examine it and disagree. At any rate, the coin has a full strike, prominent wire rim, and very attractive multicolored toning, especially nice on the obverse which is a blend of russet, reddish-gold, violet and blue. The reverse is a paler reddish-gold color. There are some light

hairlines and contact marks in the fields, but the overall appearance of the coin is really excellent. JJP purchased this coin as a Proof from the famous Dr. Christian Allenburger sale in 1948, Lot 946, for \$13.75.

A very prominent obverse die break bisects the obverse and runs from the rim just to the right of the 7 in the date through the hair curls, the E of LIBERTY, the cap, and then to a denticle. There are also some very fine hairline die breaks on the reverse, including one from the top of A3 to the rim between two denticles, the break also connecting to the top arrowhead. Another connects the top of R to a denticle. Finally, there is a die break from the top of F to the rim. This is a very intriguing coin that is worth close attention and further study, although it may never be possible to make a definitive determination as to its original method of striking.

577. 1837, Bust Type, JR-4. Rarity-1. **Uncirculated.** Very vivid multicolored toning, blue, violet, russet and greenish-gold on the obverse, the same shades on the reverse, although in a markedly different mix. This coin is struck from the same dies as the preceding, but it has an entirely different look, as well as an earlier stage of the same die breaks on the reverse. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$2.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1837 NO STARS DIME

Only 25-30 Proofs Known



578. 1837, Liberty Seated, No Stars, Large Date. **Choice Proof.** Very sharply struck with a prominent wire rim on the reverse and a partial wire rim on the obverse. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and are covered by absolutely superb toning, mostly deep violet, blue and greenish-gold. There are some light hairlines in the fields, but no marks of significance, and the overall look of the coin is spectacular due to the depth of fields and the superb toning. This is the variety with the repunched 7 in the date, the repunching showing clearly at the bottom of the 7. It is listed as No. 102 in Brian Greer's reference work on

Liberty Seated Dimes. JJP purchased this coin from the famous Will W. Neil Collection sale (Mehl, 6/47), Lot 1239, for \$25.

Reportedly, 30 Proofs of the new Liberty Seated Dime were struck at the Philadelphia Mint on June 30, 1837. Undoubtedly, an additional small quantity was struck before year's end. Apparently, all were presented to dignitaries, not sold to numismatists (few of which existed in the U.S. at that time anyway), and so it is not surprising that many were not handled or cared for properly in subsequent years. Today, approximately 25-30 Proof No Stars Dimes are known, perhaps even a few more. Although rare, the 1837 No Stars Dime is more often available in Proof than the Half Dime of the same type.

579. 1837, Liberty Seated, No Stars, Large Date. Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with irregular multicolored toning. Reverse rim nicks above TE in STATES.

BEAUTIFULLY TONED UNCIRCULATED 1838-O DIME

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



580. 1838-O, No Stars. Very Choice Uncirculated or better. This is listed as variety No. 101 in Brian Greer's Dime reference. It has a repunched mint mark and small die breaks (cuds) on the obverse rim at K-2, K-4, K-8 and K-9. The coin is very sharply struck with full frosty mint luster and sensational multicolored toning, a blend of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The surfaces are very clean with no more than a few insignificant hairlines, and the coin is really virtually in the Gem class. Many die breaks connect the letters of UNITED to each other, and another die break connects the U to a denticle. Acquired 10/44 from the New Netherlands 18th sale, Lot 285, for \$9.50.

Most known examples of this date are circulated; there are relatively few Mint State specimens known, fewer still in this high grade. This specimen is at least equal to the Eliasberg coin, and far nicer than the Norweb, Garrett, or Lovejoy examples, as well as nearly all others seen.



581. 1838, Large Stars. Choice Uncirculated, fully prooflike. This coin has very attractive warm reddish-gold and violet toning, and only a few light hairlines and marks. On the reverse, there are several small rim nicks. There is recutting on several obverse stars, most noticeable at star 1 at the lower left. Obtained 4/49 from the Dr. Charles Green sale where it was offered as Lot 1171 and sold for \$5.85. B. Max Mehl there described it as, "Brilliant semi-proof, nearly equal to a brilliant proof. Rare so choice." Of course, semi-proof was the term Mehl (and others) used for coins we now refer to as "prooflike".

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1838 SMALL STARS DIME



582. 1838, Small Stars. Gem Uncirculated. A gorgeous, frosty coin with a razor sharp strike, highly lustrous surfaces that are free from virtually any marks whatsoever, and superb light toning, mostly medium greenish-gold and blue around the border with russet highlights. A die break connects the first six stars and continues down through the rock and the date; another connects the top of the head of Liberty to the 8th star and the cap. On the reverse there is noticeable doubling, particularly evident at S1 and S2 in STATES, the O and D in the denomination, and the bow knot and lower leaves of the wreath. A tiny die break runs from the top of S2 through OF and AMER. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$2.

Brian Greer and Walter Breen both state that only 30,000 1838 Small Stars Dimes were struck, all with the Doubled Die reverse described above. Greer also rates the issue as Rarity-5 in Mint State meaning that a Gem such as this is undoubtedly quite rare.

583. 1839, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly Mint State. A touch of friction on the obverse along with numerous light hairlines, and a few contact marks in the fields. Attractive light to medium reddish-gold, violet and blue toning. Fairly well struck, but very weak at the obverse denticles from K-12 to K-2. Purchased as a Proof by JJP from M. H. Bolender in March 1952 for \$9, but this coin is definitely a business strike and not a Proof.

584. 1839, Almost Uncirculated. Attractive peripheral toning, light hairlines and marks in the fields. Purchased from a Walter Webb sale, 4/44, Lot 1748, for \$2.10.

VERY CHOICE MINT STATE 1839-O DIME



585. 1839-O, Very Choice Uncirculated. Large O. Kept out of the Gem class only by a tiny dig in the field by the 3rd star. Very sharply struck with highly lustrous, frosty surfaces and superb multicolored peripheral toning, a blend of violet, russet, blue and greenish-gold. A very scarce coin in this high grade; Brian Greer rates it High R-5 in Mint State, but a virtual Gem such as this is obviously worthy of an even higher rarity rating. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$2.25.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1840 NO DRAPERY DIME

One Of Only 5-6 Examples Known



586. 1840, No Drapery. Choice Proof or better. Brilliant deep mirror fields with just a touch of peripheral toning, beautiful shades of blue, violet and reddish-gold predominating. The coin has an absolutely full strike and shows evidence of a partial wire rim on both sides. Some light hairlines are noticeable in the fields and there are a few minor planchet irregularities within the wreath. There are die polishing lines on the obverse near the head and upper stars, as well as die file marks on the reverse near the denticles between F in OF and the first A in AMERICA. These die file marks are diagnostic of Proofs of this date and are not seen on any business strikes. Purchased by JJP for \$13.25 as Lot 985 from the famed Dr. Christian Allenburger sale in 1948.

The 1840 No Drapery Dime is a major rarity in Proof, comparable to the similar Half Dime, with only 5-6 Proofs known. Proof 1840 Dimes were struck only for inclusion in the 10 or fewer Proof sets minted early in the year; it does not appear that any additional Proof Dimes were minted in 1840, as there were of the two copper denominations and the Dollar. Eliasberg: 1117 is the only Proof to appear at auction recently; Bareford, Garrett, James Stack, Lovejoy, Norweb, and Starr were all missing this date in Proof. All Proof 1840 Dimes are the No Drapery variety and there has never been a confirmed, or even reported, example of the 1840 With Drapery Dime in Proof.

587. 1840, No Drapery. Almost Uncirculated. A frosty, well struck specimen with attractive multicolored peripheral toning. Acquired from Barney Bluestone, 11/43, for \$2.75.



588. 1841, Drapery At Elbow. Choice Uncirculated, fully Prooflike, or possibly Proof. It is my opinion that this coin is a business strike, but others who have examined it in the past have deemed it to be a Proof. JJP purchased it as a Proof from B. Max Mehl's Allenburger sale in 1948 as Lot 997 for \$14.25. Walter Breen also notes in his Proof Encyclopedia, "One proof seen (NY State specialist set.)" (Of course, JJP is Breen's oft referred to "New York State specialist", and this reference appears throughout Breen's various works. JJP insisted, however, that Breen not use his name.) The coin is sharply struck and very prooflike and has superb medium to deep blue and violet toning. There are just a few trivial marks and faint hairlines in the fields which keep it from a higher grade. Die file marks can be seen on the reverse at the denticles above ME in AMERICA.

If this coin is indeed a true Proof, it is of the greatest rarity since the 1841 Dime in Proof was missing from all of the recent famous "name" sales including James A. Stack, Floyd Starr, John Garrett, Harold Bareford, Allen Lovejoy and Louis Eliasberg. It is also not represented in either the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution or the ANS Collection. In fact, the 1841 Dime is one of the rarest Liberty Seated coins in Proof from 1840-1858, on a par with the 1844 Quarter (an example of which is in the complete 1844 Proof set, Lot 833), and even more rare than the 1840 and 1841 Quarters, choice examples of which will be sold in Pittman II in May 1998. Only two, possibly three, 1841 Dimes are known or reported in Proof, including a "No Drapery" (from a lapped die) example in the Col. Green Collection, not seen recently enough to be confirmed as a true Proof, and an example certified as Proof-62 that was sold in Bowers and Merena's March 1997 Sale, Lot 2215. As I have stated, I feel that this Pittman coin is a prooflike business strike rather than a Proof, but other opinions may differ, and so prospective bidders are encouraged to examine it closely and draw their own conclusions.



589. 1841, Drapery At Elbow. Choice Uncirculated. Well struck with partially prooflike fields and very attractive medium multicolored toning, a blend of russet, violet, blue and greenish-gold. Not nearly as questionable as the preceding lot with respect to its minting status, although this coin was also purchased by JJP as a Proof. He obtained it for \$16.50 from Barney Bluestone's 98th sale, 10/47, Lot 678.

590. 1841, Drapery At Elbow. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Irregular multicolored toning, undoubtedly the result of being cleaned at one time. Light hairlines and handling marks scattered throughout the fields.

UNCIRCULATED 1841-O DIME



591. 1841-O, Medium O, Open Bud Reverse. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Generally very well struck, although there is some weakness at the top of the obverse in the denticles, on Liberty's head, and on the reverse at the bow knot. The frosty surfaces do not have a great deal of luster, but do have superb multicolored toning, a mix of reddish-gold, violet and blue. This is a scarce date in Extremely Fine or better condition, and a rare one in Mint State. Greer rates it High Rarity-6 in Mint State and notes that it is slightly more rare than the Small O variety. Purchased from Harold Whiteneck, 12/2/52, for \$2.

592. 1842, Almost Uncirculated. Lightly burnished to make it look like a Proof, now with electric blue and violet peripheral toning, and light hairlines and contact marks throughout the fields. Obtained as a Proof from a Numismatic Gallery sale in 6/49, Lot 239, for \$16, a price which would have been appropriate for a Proof at the time of purchase.

593. 1842, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Attractive, light multi-colored toning around the periphery, mostly greenish-gold and blue. Sharply struck, lustrous and relatively unmarked. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$2.75.



594. 1842-O, Medium O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Very well struck for the issue. Medium, but rather dull, greenish-gold, russet, violet and blue toning. Light hairlines and marks in the fields consistent with the grade. This is a very scarce date, if not a rare one, in all grades. Greer's reference work on Liberty Seated Dimes rates it Low R-5 in this condition. Acquired from James F. Ruddy on 4/18/56 in trade for an 1839-O Dime in similar condition. JJP notes that each coin was valued at \$3 in the trade.

EXTREMELY RARE AND CHOICE 1843 PROOF DIME

Only 8-10 Proofs Known, This Possibly The Finest



595. 1843, Very Choice Proof, if not a full Gem. Fully struck with very reflective deep mirror fields, a high wire rim, and fabulous medium blue, violet, russet and greenish-gold toning. This is what a Proof Liberty Seated Dime of this decade is supposed to look like. (The U.S. Mint definitely knew how to make proper Proofs during the 1840's, and comparing this coin closely to the 1841 in Lot 588 will quickly show why I do not feel that the 1841 is a true Proof.) This piece has a few light hairlines in the fields, but is still very close to Gem quality. There is a very small triangular die lump on the high wire rim between stars 1 and 2, diagnostic of Proof 1843 Dimes, i.e. all Proofs have it and it is not seen on business strikes. There is also evidence of die polishing lines at various places on the coin, mostly near the rims. The numerals of the date are large and heavy and the 1 firmly touches a denticle. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's 1946 ANA sale as Lot 266 for \$17.

This date in Proof is extremely rare and was absent from virtually every important sale of Dimes in recent years, including such great collections as James Stack, Floyd Starr, Harold Bareford, Allen Lovejoy and Louis Eliasberg. There was, however, a specimen in the Norweb Collection, not as choice as this one, and one in Amon Carter's 1843 Proof set (sold by Stack's in 1984), also of lower quality than this coin. Later in this sale, in Lot 832, there is another Proof 1843 Dime that is offered as part of JJP's original 1843 Proof Set, again, not the equal of this virtual Gem. Proof Dimes were struck in 1843 only for inclusion in the 10-15 Proof sets of the year. A few more seem to be around than of the Half Dime, but the number of Proofs in existence still cannot be more than 8-10 pieces.

596. **1843, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with mottled multicolored toning and frosty surfaces. The date has been repunched. Acquired from George Bauer's sale XIV, 1/45, Lot 418, for \$2.30.

597. **1843-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Dull medium greenish-gold and russet toning with a touch of blue and violet. This is a scarce issue in all grades.

598. **1845, Almost Uncirculated.** Beautiful multicolored obverse toning, mostly about the periphery. Well struck with frosty surfaces and a minimum of marks. Purchased 11/43 from Barney Bluestone for \$2.75.



599. **1845-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State. Sharply struck with semi-prooflike fields and superb medium multicolored toning. Only a few light marks in the fields, none of significance. A scarce issue in any condition, the 1845-O is a rare one in this high grade. Purchased as Lot 847 from James Kelly's 11/57 sale for \$27.50.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1847 DIME

Extremely Rare, Only 6-8 Proofs Known



600. **1847, Very Choice Proof.** This coin would be a full Gem were it not for some minor rim damage (called, "Two small file marks", by Abe Kosoff in 1946) on the obverse below the date, possibly "as made". The coin has a razor sharp strike and full wire rim all around on both sides. The fields are deep mirrors with numerous die polishing lines and superb medium blue, russet and golden toning. The four numerals of the date touch the base, the lower left corner of the 1 nearly touches the center of a denticle. The fields are remarkably clean with no visible marks or

hairlines of any kind. Purchased by JJP from the 1946 ANA sale conducted 8/46 by Numismatic Gallery. The coin was noted as being from the Adolph Friedman Collection and appeared as Lot 269 where it realized \$17. Earlier it was in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale (F.C.C. Boyd), Lot 532.

An estimated 10-15 Proof Dimes were struck in 1847, all for inclusion in the year's Proof sets. Today, a Proof 1847 Dime is a great rarity with only 6-8 pieces known. Starr and Eliasberg had examples, but such great sales as Garrett, Norweb, Bareford, and Lovejoy did not.

Delivery of Lots

All Lots must be paid for in full prior to delivery. No Exceptions. Delivery to successful, qualified bidders will be made according to the following schedule.

Session One: Wednesday, October 22, 1997, 10:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon.

Sessions One & Two: Thursday, October 23, 1997, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon.

All Sessions: Friday, October 24, 1997, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon.

Any lots picked up in Baltimore will be subject to all applicable state and local taxes. Lots not picked up in Baltimore will be mailed to successful bidders.

EXTREMELY RARE GEM PROOF 1848 DIME



601. **1848, Gem Proof.** This is an absolutely magnificent specimen with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and an unusually high wire rim at the upper left obverse. The fields are virtually flawless in terms of marks, and the toning is as fantastic as the quality, a very delicate blend of violet, russet and greenish-gold. The date slants down to the right, the 1 firmly touching the base, the first 8 very close or slightly touching depending on your point of view, and the 4 and second 8 increasingly clear of the base. It would be difficult to imagine a finer, or even comparable, specimen since this coin is very nearly "as struck", except that over the last 149 years it has acquired a magnificent color that has enhanced its appearance. From an overall quality standpoint, this is one of the two finest Proof Dimes of the 1840's in the Pittman Collection.

(The 1845, which will be sold in Pittman II, is the other; the 1847 would also be of equal quality if it did not have the two marks on the obverse rim). This is another Proof Dime obtained by JJP from the 1946 ANA sale. It was sold as Lot 270 for \$22.50, and was noted as earlier being Lot 534 from the "World's Greatest Collection" sale of May 12, 1945.

As was the case with the 1847, the Proof 1848 Dime was struck only for inclusion in the Proof sets of the year, of which perhaps 10-15 were minted. A few more examples of the 1848 have survived than of the 1847, however, and I estimate that perhaps 8-10 exist, including the two impounded in the ANS and Smithsonian Institution, putting the 1848 Proof Dime on a par with the 1843. This superb coin is possibly the finest known, at least as choice as, if not finer than, Eliasberg: 1136, and definitely superior to Starr: 365, Stack: 84, or Lovejoy: 241, the only others seen in recent years.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1849 DIME

Only 6-8 Proofs Known



602. **1849, Very Choice Proof** or better. This is Brian Greer's variety No. 101, called a "concealed overdate" by Breen (B-3257), with repunching showing within the upper loops of the 8 and the 9. It is almost certainly a repunched date rather than a true overdate. This piece is very sharply struck with a square edge, high wire rim and highly reflective, deep mirror fields that are enhanced with beautiful, mottled reddish-gold toning. The fields

are very clean with no more than a few faint hairlines, and the coin is actually quite close to the Gem level. This is another great rarity in Proof with only a few known, probably no more than 6-8 pieces at most. Specimens were, however, in the James A. Stack, Floyd Starr and Louis Eliasberg Collections. This piece was purchased by JJP for \$75 from a Hollinbeck Stamp & Coin Co. sale, Lot 130, date of sale unknown.

603. 1849, Extremely Fine. Irregular multicolored toning, numerous hairlines in the fields. Weakly struck at the top of the 18 in the date.

RARE HIGH GRADE 1849-O DIME



604. 1849-O, Small O, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Frosty surfaces, a very good strike for the issue, and attractive multi-

colored peripheral toning. A few light contact marks in the fields as well as a few faint hairlines, but nothing serious; the reverse is virtually Mint State. This is the variety with the prominently repunched date, the repunching showing very clearly on the numerals 184. The 9 does not show repunching, but the ball and the upper loop of the 9 are connected. This is a very scarce issue in almost any grade, and it is definitely rare in grades better than Extremely Fine. Purchased 9/27/47 from David Bullowa for \$5.50.

EXTREMELY RARE GEM PROOF 1850 DIME

Only 4-5 Proofs Known



605. 1850, Gem Proof. Highly reflective mirror fields that also show numerous die striations. The coin is very sharply struck with a square edge, high wire rim, and extraordinary detail on all design devices. The date is low in the field, away from the base, the 1 tipped slightly to the left. The left edge of the foot of the 1 is directly over the space between two denticles. The surfaces of this coin are very high quality with the few hairlines present being very faint and concealed by the beautiful light reddish-gold toning. This coin was purchased by JJP from French's 2/14/59 sale, Lot 861, for \$140.

This Proof is of the greatest rarity with only a few specimens known, certainly no more than four or five. Most of the recent great sales containing important Dime collections were lacking this date in Proof with the exception of the Floyd Starr Collection sale in 1992, which contained a Choice Proof, and the Allen Lovejoy Collection sale in 1990, which contained a Proof that had formerly been in the Ellis Robison Collection. Norweb, Garrett, Eliasberg, Bareford, and James Stack, great collections with outstanding rarities and many Proofs, all failed to have an example of this date in Proof. Following is a roster of the only examples known to me.

1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; French's 2/59: 861.
2. Floyd Starr: 367; Morgenthau 1/43: 444.
3. Allen Lovejoy: 253; Ellis Robison: 1058; Stack's 2/74: 1254.
4. Essex Institute: 493.

Another example, New Netherlands 52nd sale: 451, may be either No. 3 or 4 above; if not, it would be a fifth known specimen. It is not known for certain if the Proof copper and silver coins of 1850 were issued in sets, as they had been from 1840-1849. The Winsor (1895), Stickney (1907) and Mougey (1910) Collections all contained extensive runs of original Proof sets from the 1840-1858 period, but none of those great collections contained an original 1850 Proof set. The Mickley sale (1867) and H.P. Smith sale (1906) did contain 1850 Silver Proof sets, but no claim was made that they were original sets, and they may have been assembled. Proofs exist of most denominations, however, including the Quarter Eagle and Double Eagle, so it is probable that at least one complete Proof set, including the gold coins, was minted.

RARE VIRTUAL GEM 1850 DIME



606. 1850, Very Choice Uncirculated, almost in the Gem category. A superbly toned specimen with medium to deep shades of violet, reddish-gold and blue. Very sharply

struck with full prooflike surfaces. The date is well away from the base, but with a slightly different position than the preceding Proof; the left tip of the foot of the 1 is over the left edge of the denticle below it rather than over the space between the two denticles. This is one of the finest known business strike 1850 Dimes, an issue that is scarce in Mint State and rare in this high grade. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's 114th sale, 6/18/51, Lot 1249, for \$3.25.

607. 1850, Uncirculated. The obverse is nearly Choice with beautiful multicolored toning. The reverse has some marks as well as light golden toning. On this specimen, the date is very high with 185 touching the base and 0 away from the base.

VERY RARE CHOICE MINT STATE 1850-O DIME

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



608. 1850-O, Large O, Very Choice Uncirculated. A gorgeous, frosty specimen with a very sharp strike and beautiful natural multicolored toning. Clash marks on the reverse at ME of DIME. There are a few light hairlines in the right obverse field which are virtually concealed by the beautiful toning, but the coin is otherwise a Gem and

certainly one of the finest known examples of this very scarce date. The 1850-O Dime is sufficiently rare that Brian Greer, in his excellent reference book on Dimes, rates the Large O variety as Rarity-7 in Mint State. Acquired from David Bullowa on 9/27/47 for \$7.50.

609. 1851, Almost Uncirculated. Irregular multicolored toning. Prominent repunching on the second 1 of the date, no repunching visible elsewhere. Purchased 7/46 from the New Netherlands 24th sale, Lot 883, for \$2.75.

610. 1851-O, Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with beautiful multicolored peripheral toning. Very scarce in this high grade. Purchased from the Numismatic Gallery sale of 2/53, Lot 411, for \$8.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1852 DIME

One Of Only 8-10 Proofs Known



611. **1852, Choice Proof.** This coin would grade even higher than Choice were it not for a few marks on the rim, including one fairly prominent one on the obverse near the 1st star. The surfaces, however, are literally flawless with no hairlines, marks, or imperfections of any kind. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and the coin is toned in superb sunset shades of violet and reddish-gold with a hint of blue. The date is high in the field, but clear of the base, and there is no sign of repunching on any of the

numerals. As a Proof, the 1852 is extremely rare, and it is my estimate that only 8-10 examples are known. Bareford, Lovejoy and Eliasberg had Proofs of this date; Stack, Starr, Garrett and Norweb did not. In my opinion, it is quite possible that this coin, and all 1852 Proof coins, are Restrikes, struck perhaps 6-10 years later than the date. Purchased privately from J.S. Morris on 3/14/47 for \$22.

612. **1852, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck, except at the denticles above Liberty's head. Mottled reddish-gold and gray toning. The date is very high in the field with 185 barely touching the base, the 2 slightly away.



613. **1852-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Generally well struck, except for a trace of weakness on the last three stars and on the leaves of the wreath. Almost full prooflike surfaces and very attractive multicolored peripheral toning. This date is very scarce in any condition and really quite rare in this high grade. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's 5/48 sale as part of Lot 291 which realized \$7. (The lot also contained the 1853-O in Lot 617.)

UNCIRCULATED
1853 NO ARROWS DIME

614. **1853, No Arrows, Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with full frosty mint luster and light multicolored peripheral toning. Rim nick on the reverse above S1. Scarce in this grade, although not as rare as the low mintage might indicate. Purchased 9/45 from Barney Bluestone's 89th sale, Lot 1145, for \$8.

EXTREMELY RARE 1853 ARROWS DIME IN GEM PROOF

Possible Finest Of Only 3-4 Known Proofs



615. 1853, Arrows At Date, Gem Proof. An absolutely splendid, stunning coin that is nearly "as struck" since it has no hairlines, marks or abrasions of any kind. The fields are highly mirrorlike and have superb multicolored toning, a gorgeous blend of violet, blue and russet. Clash marks appear in the right obverse field from the junction of Liberty's arm and drapery down to the middle of her lower leg. On the reverse, there are clash marks inside the wreath that are especially visible at the word DIME and the right side of the wreath and the bow. The strike is very sharp, and the coin has a square edge and a high wire rim. The left and right arrows both are firmly anchored to denticles; the left arrow gently touches the base, the right arrow is barely free of it. There is also evidence of recutting along the lower edge of the left arrowhead. No repunching is visible on the date. Purchased from Wayte Raymond's 11/46 sale, Lot 375, for \$55.

This is one of the most important and intriguing Proof coins in the John Jay Pittman Collection. Virtually all of the great collections have failed to have a Proof 1853 With Arrows Dime (Eliasberg, Bareford, Garrett, Starr, Stack et al), with only the Norweb coin (later sold in the Lovejoy Collection) appearing at auction in many years. A few others have been reported and/or "certified", but it still seems

likely that only three or four Proofs exist, with this specimen possibly the finest, or at least tied for that distinction.

I do not believe that any Proofs were intentionally struck of this denomination (or any other) in 1853. This specimen and the Norweb coin (and presumably the others, which I have not seen) are what I would call "accidental" or "unintentional" Proofs, created when the dies were polished to remove the clashmarks described above. Beginning in 1843, when he first visited the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia to obtain the 1804 Dollar, Matthew A. Stickney acquired annual copper-silver Proof sets directly from the Mint. He did so without interruption from 1843-1879 with the exception of only three years, 1851, 1852 and 1853, although several of his original "Proof" sets contained some Mint State pieces. (Apparently Mint personnel were not especially careful when assembling the Proof sets of a given year, and often included Uncirculated pieces in error!) Stickney's failure to have sets of these years indicates to me that Proof sets must not have been issued in 1851-1853, since otherwise Stickney surely would have acquired them. With the exception of the Restrike Silver Dollars of 1851 and 1853, all other alleged Proofs of those two years are, at best, questionable and controversial. However, true Proofs of all non-gold denominations of 1852 are known, and some experts consider them to be "originals", i.e. actually struck in 1852; but, based on their appearance and the fact that there is no evidence that they were ever available directly from the Mint in 1852, I feel they may all be Restrikes minted later in the decade.

GEM MINT STATE 1853 ARROWS DIME

616. 1853, Arrows At Date, Gem Uncirculated. Sharply struck with full mint luster and superb multicolored iridescent toning. The frosty fields have virtually no marks of any kind, and the coin has a very sharp, high wire rim all

around. The arrowheads show no signs of recutting and both of them firmly touch the base, but just barely touch the denticles on either side. There is no recutting evident on any of the numerals of the date which is level and centered. This is not a particularly rare issue, even in Mint State, but it is very popular as a type coin and, of course, this coin is especially appealing because of its great color and almost flawless surfaces.

617. 1853-O, Arrows At Date. Almost Uncirculated. Warm reddish-gold and blue-green toning. Fairly well struck and frosty, but without a great deal of luster. Both arrowheads touch the base, but do not touch the denticles. Purchased as part of Lot 291 from Numismatic Gallery's 5/48 sale for \$7. (The lot also contained the 1852-O Dime in Lot 613.)

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1854 DIME

618. 1854, Arrows At Date. Proof. Very sharply struck with a high wire rim. Deep mirrorlike fields that have a number of light hairlines. The obverse of the coin has pale golden toning with shades of reddish-gold and violet as well as several areas of purple discoloration. The reverse is very choice with lighter reddish-gold toning, but the overall grade of the coin is reduced by the obverse hairlines. There are numerous die file marks that run from the denticles below the date and arrows toward the

base. Purchased as Lot 1135 from the Dr. Christian Allenburger sale (Mehl, 3/48) for \$32.50.

Beginning in 1854, Proof coin production increased under the direction of James Ross Snowden, and perhaps as many as 30-35 silver and copper Proof sets were minted. Dimes were struck only for inclusion in these sets and fewer of them seem to have survived than of the Three Cent piece, the Half Dime, or even the Large Cent, all of which are very rare. This is a much more rare issue than many realize and no more than 10-12 Proofs are known.

619. 1854, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim, full mint frost and very attractive medium

multi-colored peripheral toning. JJP acquired this coin from George Bauer's sale XIV, 1/45, Lot 430, for \$1.65.

VERY CHOICE MINT STATE 1854-O DIME

620. 1854-O, Arrows At Date. Very Choice Uncirculated, possibly even a Gem. Very sharply struck with full frosty mint

luster and beautiful blue, greenish-gold and violet peripheral toning with paler gold in the centers. A few white toning spots across the center of the obverse appear almost as light wispy clouds. There are faint "slide marks" on Liberty's breast. The left arrowhead touches the base, the right does not, and both arrow points are firmly attached to the center of denticles. In the date, 185 touch the base, 4 is barely clear. This is a very scarce date in this grade. Purchased 5/44 from the New Netherlands 17th sale, Lot 865, for \$2.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1855 DIME



621. **1855, Arrows At Date. Proof.** Deep mirrorlike fields with light golden toning and blotchy, dark purple discoloration on the obverse. The reverse also has some dark purple toning, but it is more attractive and confined within the wreath. The reverse of this coin is very choice, but the obverse is diminished by light to moderate hairlines throughout the fields and devices, as well as some contact marks. The date is prominently doubled to the right; this is a Proof-only variety, Greer-102. Not nearly as rare as the 1854 Dime in Proof, but very rare nevertheless. Only 25-30 Proofs are known, about the same number as are known of the Half Dime. Purchased privately from Paul Sietz, 7/1/47, for \$25.

622. **1855, Arrows At Date. Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned, now with irregular and very vivid multicolored peripheral toning. Obtained at George Bauer's sale XV, 1/45, for \$1.20.

RARE PROOF 1856 DIME



623. **1856, Small Date. Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. A fully brilliant specimen with deep mirror fields and just a trace of light golden toning. Light hairlines throughout the fields, but no serious impairments. Weakly struck at the bottom of the date, as on many specimens seen. Rare, but not as rare as any of the preceding Proof Dimes; at least 35-40 are known, maybe more. For some reason, a few more of the Dimes seem to be around than the Half Dimes. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection in June 1947, Lot 1264, for \$30.

624. A group of four Liberty Seated Dimes including **1856, Small Date, 1857, 1877-S, and 1888-S.** All four of the coins are **Extremely Fine or Almost Uncirculated.** The 1856 has been cleaned and has blotchy golden toning. The 1857 has vivid multicolored toning and a high wire rim. The 1877-S has medium blue and gold toning and is very heavily hairlined. The 1888-S is the nicest coin of the lot and is partially prooflike with deep greenish-gold, blue and violet color. Four pieces.



625. **1856, Large Date. Choice Uncirculated.** A frosty specimen with very attractive multicolored toning on the obverse, a blend of medium greenish-gold, blue and violet at the border and pale gold in the center. The reverse has just a trace of light peripheral toning. Brian Greer notes that this Large Date variety is as much as ten times as rare as the commonly seen Small Date variety and, in fact, he gives it a rarity rating of High R-5 in Mint State.

626. **1856-O, Uncirculated.** Large O. A well struck, frosty specimen with vivid multicolored toning on the obverse, deep blue and greenish-gold at the border turning first to violet, then light reddish-gold, and finally pale gold at the center. This coin has a prominently repunched date with the repunching noticeable below the 5 and very obvious below the 6. The date slants up dramatically from left to right. Though common in the lower grades, this is a very scarce issue in the upper grades, enough so that it is given a Low R-6 rating in Unc. by Brian Greer in his Dime reference.

627. **1856-S, Very Good to Fine.** Warm russet, greenish-gold and blue toning, probably acquired after the coin was cleaned years ago. Several noticeable abrasions on the obverse including one very prominent one near the 13th star and one on the date. Obtained by JJP from James Kelly's 11/2/57 sale where it realized \$24 as Lot 870.

RARE PROOF 1857 DIME



628. **1857, Proof.** Deep mirrorlike fields with full brilliance. Sharply struck with a very prominent high wire rim on the right side of the obverse. Lightly hairlined on both sides, but especially so in the obverse fields. The coin now has light golden toning on the obverse and attractive reddish-gold and blue shades on the reverse. More common than the 1856 Dime in Proof with as many as 50-60 known. Also, slightly less rare than the Proof Half Dime of the same date. Purchased from the Will W. Neil Collection sale (Mehl, 6/47), Lot 1266, for \$21.

BORDERLINE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1857-O DIME



VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1860-S DIME



629. **1857-O, Very Choice Uncirculated.** a borderline Gem. Large O. Very sharply struck with highly lustrous, partially prooflike fields, and beautiful multicolored iridescent toning, a blend of russet, violet and electric blue. A few light marks in the right obverse field, but nothing on the figure of Liberty; the reverse is Gem quality. There are clash marks at the ME of DIME. Common in lower grades, but certainly rare at this high level; in fact, Brian Greer notes that the Large O variety is Low R-5 in Mint State. Acquired from the New Netherlands 18th sale, 10/44, Lot 314, for \$2.50.

630. **1858-O, Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with a full head. The frosty surfaces do not have a lot of luster, but do have very attractive light peripheral toning. There is a tiny edge nick on the reverse rim between S2 in STATES and OF. Brian Greer notes that Mint State specimens are Low R-6 and adds that, "Mint State pieces usually do not show strong luster." That final comment is very appropriate for this specimen offered here. Purchased from James Kelly's 10/49 sale, Lot 573, for \$4.25.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1859-O DIME



631. **1859-O, Choice Uncirculated.** Large O. Very sharply struck with lustrous, frosty surfaces and gorgeous toning, especially on the obverse which is pale gold in the center turning to reddish-brown, then violet, and finally blue and greenish-gold at the border. There are a few spots in the left obverse field between Liberty's arm and the stars. Relatively few marks or hairlines are noticeable anywhere in the fields of the coin, but there are light "slide marks" on the legs, bust and arms. Greer indicates this variety is R-4 in Mint State. Purchased from New Netherland's 17th sale, 5/44, Lot 874, for \$2.45.



632. **1860-S, Uncirculated.** Softly struck on Liberty's head, but sharp elsewhere. The lustrous surfaces are covered with mottled violet and reddish-gold toning. It is difficult to see under the toning to gauge the exact quality of the surfaces, but they do appear to be quite clean with no more than a few small contact marks. Very rare; Brian Greer rates this issue R-7 in Mint State. JJP purchased this coin as Choice Uncirculated for \$13 on 9/27/47 from David Bullowa.



633. **1860, Gem Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. A beautiful specimen with outstanding luster under superb medium multi-colored toning that is mostly greenish-gold, violet and blue. Purchased for \$35.50 in July 1961 from a Mike Kolman sale, Lot 588.



634. **1860-O, Very Fine.** Cleaned long ago and now a dull gray, russet and blue-green color. Only 40,000 struck; rare in all grades.



635. **1861, Choice Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a high wire rim. Very attractive light reddish-gold toning. A few light hairlines in the right obverse field. Purchased for \$41 from a Jim Charlton sale in May 1964 where it appeared as Lot 254.



636. **1862, Choice Proof.** 550 Proofs minted. Pale reddish-gold toning. A few light hairlines in the fields, but most of the lines were present at the time of striking. Purchased from an Abner Kreisberg sale in 1962, Lot 992, for \$40.

637. **1863, Proof.** 460 Proofs minted. Dull surfaces with light golden toning and light to moderate hairlines. Purchased as Lot 590 from Mike Kolman's 7/27/61 sale for \$41.



638. **1863-S, Uncirculated.** A bit softly struck on Liberty's head, but sharp elsewhere. Frosty surfaces with smoky multicolored toning, mostly sunset shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue-green. The toning covers a number of light hairlines. This date is decidedly rare in full Mint State; in fact, it is Low R-7 according to Brian Greer. Purchased from James Kelly's 11/57 sale, Lot 840, for \$37.50.



639. **1864-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State. Generally well struck, although there is the weakness on Liberty's head that is seen on almost all examples of this issue. The coin has very attractive smoky sunset toning with shades of reddish-brown, violet and blue-green. There is just a trace of rub on the highest points, but the fields are quite clean and have very few marks. The reverse is fully Mint State. Not as scarce as the 1863-S just offered, but still difficult to locate this choice. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's ANA sale in 1958, Lot 1215, for \$26.

640. **1865, Proof.** 500 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim and deep mirror fields. Pale golden toning on the obverse with slightly deeper shades at the periphery. The reverse has more attractive toning with shades of blue, russet and violet at the border as well as a diagonal toning streak across the wreath. Purchased from Hans Schulman's 12/73 sale, Lot 461, for \$140.

641. **1866, Proof.** 725 Proofs minted. Very prominent high wire rim on the upper obverse, wire rim all around on the reverse. Very attractive light reddish-gold toning. Purchased by JJP from Hans Schulman's 12/73 sale, Lot 462, for \$185.

642. **1867, Proof.** 625 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields and beautiful light peripheral toning, mostly russet and blue. Obtained from a Hans Schulman sale, 12/73, Lot 464, for \$190.

643. **1868, Choice Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Medium, but rather dull multicolored toning, mostly blue and russet with a trace of greenish-gold. Purchased as Lot 591 from Mike Kolman's 7/27/61 sale for \$29.

644. **1868-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Well struck except for a softness on Liberty's head. Shades of blue, reddish-gold and russet toning; rather dull on the reverse, but quite lustrous and nice on the obverse. Purchased from C.S. Foster for \$10 on 10/27/52.

645. **1869, Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Fully brilliant with numerous light hairlines in the fields as well as a few tiny contact marks. Purchased for \$25.50 from a Mike Kolman auction in July 1961 where it appeared as Lot 592.

646. **1869-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned, now a mottled medium blend of sunset shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue-green. A few scratches and hairlines in the fields. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA Convention sale, Lot 1221, for \$18.



647. **1870, Gem Proof.** 1,000 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and superb blue-green, gold and violet toning. The fields have numerous raised die scratches resulting from polishing of the dies. Purchased by JJP at the 1974 MANA Convention for \$180, seller unknown.

648. **1871, Choice Proof.** 960 Proofs minted. Fully brilliant with just a trace of light golden toning. Very sharp strike with a prominent wire rim all around. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg's 9/18/61 sale, Lot 656, where it realized \$28.50.

649. **1871-S, Extremely Fine.** Light golden toning, a little dull. Purchased for \$57.50 as Lot 741 from the Alex Shuford Collection sale conducted by Abe Kosoff in May 1968.

650. **1872, Proof.** 950 Proofs minted. Fully brilliant with just a touch of light golden toning and a tarnish streak on the reverse at the left side of the wreath. Purchased from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale as Lot 595 for \$23.



651. 1873, No Arrows. Very Choice Proof. 1,100 Proofs minted. Superb medium multicolored iridescent toning with shades of violet, blue and greenish-gold. Purchased for \$30 from Empire Coin Co. in 1961.



655. 1875-CC, Mintmark Below Wreath. Almost Uncirculated. Light golden toning and surfaces that are slightly dull.



656. 1875-S, Mintmark In Wreath. Choice Uncirculated. Superb satiny mint luster. Softly struck on the seated figure on the obverse, especially at the left side of the shield. The reverse is weak at the rim. Purchased as Lot 475 from the New Netherlands 52nd sale, 12/13/58, for \$8.



652. 1873-S, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated. Very weakly struck on the head of Liberty and on the mintmark, both of which show no detail whatsoever. The coin has smoky medium greenish-gold, violet and blue toning; the surfaces appear to be quite clean under the toning. The 1 and 8 in the date are repunched. Purchased for \$45 from Hans Schulman's 4/3/59 sale, Lot 1570.



657. 1875-S, Mintmark Below Wreath. Uncirculated. Weakly struck on Liberty's head; the mintmark also has no definition. The coin has excellent luster, but does have some handling marks in the fields. Purchased for \$4.75 from Numismatic Gallery's 2/10/53 sale, Lot 469.



653. 1874-S, Arrows At Date. Uncirculated. Satiny luster, indistinct mintmark. Light reddish-gold and violet toning. Minor spotting on the obverse and a small abrasion under the left side of the bow of the wreath. This is Brian Greer's variety No. 101 with a micro S mintmark. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1229, for \$52.50.



658. 1876-CC, Choice Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with lustrous frosty surfaces and very attractive reddish-gold toning. JJP purchased this coin for \$2.50 from Barney Bluestone in 1948.



654. 1875-CC, Mintmark In Wreath. Very Choice Uncirculated. A well struck, frosty specimen with superb light reddish-gold toning. Purchased by JJP from Barney Bluestone in 1948 for \$2.25.



659. 1876-S, Choice Uncirculated. Fully prooflike since the coin was struck from heavily lapped dies. Generally well struck, although there is a trace of weakness on Liberty's head and near the reverse rim. Superb medium reddish-gold toning with a touch of violet and blue near the border. Purchased for \$1.30 in 1945 from George Bauer.



660. 1877-CC, Choice Uncirculated. A very frosty specimen that has just a trace of light toning on the obverse and slightly deeper reddish-gold and blue-green toning on the reverse. Purchased in 1948 for \$2.50 from Syracuse, New York, dealer, Barney Bluestone.



661. 1878, Proof. 800 Proofs minted. Fully brilliant with deep mirror fields that are lightly to moderately hairlined. Purchased as Lot 597 from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale for \$18.



662. 1878-CC, Almost Uncirculated. Medium russet and deep blue toning. Well struck on the obverse, weak at the borders of the reverse. Purchased from Abe Kosoff for \$7, date of transaction unknown.



663. 1879, Proof. 1,100 Proofs minted. Light golden toning. Purchased from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale, Lot 598, for \$32.



664. 1880, Proof, nearly Choice. 1,355 Proofs minted. Light natural toning. Purchased from Paramount's Long Beach sale, 2/15/74, Lot 196, for \$155.



VERY CHOICE PROOF 1884 DIME



665. **1881, Choice Proof.** 975 Proofs minted. Light golden toning with deeper shades of violet and blue at the border. Obtained from Jim Charlton's 5/64 sale, Lot 270.

666. **1882, Proof.** 1,100 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a few areas of toning. Obtained as Lot 562 from the 1961 MANA sale.

667. **1883, Choice Proof or better.** 1,039 Proofs minted. Sharply struck with radiant luster and superb reddish-brown, violet and blue peripheral toning. Purchased from French's 10/19/64 sale, Lot 1312, for \$46.

668. **1884, Very Choice Proof.** 875 Proofs minted. Brilliant mirror fields with attractive russet, violet and blue peripheral toning. One faint hairline in the right obverse field below ERI in AMERICA, but otherwise of Gem quality. Purchased as Lot 1014 from Abner Kreisberg's March 1962 sale where the coin realized \$25.

MAGNIFICENTLY TONED GEM UNCIRCULATED 1884-S DIME

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



669. **1884-S, Gem Uncirculated.** This coin has the most beautiful toning one could imagine, russet and violet in the centers turning first to deep blue, and then to greenish-gold at the borders. The coin is well struck with lustrous, satiny surfaces which have only a few faint hairlines, all of which are effectively concealed by the gorgeous toning, as well as one small mark to the left of the 1 in the

date. The 1884-S is a very scarce and underrated issue in Mint State and this specimen is certainly in the Condition Census, if not absolutely the finest known. It was purchased by JJP from F.K. Saab on 10/24/54 for \$22.50, and JJP's coin envelope reads, "Perfect Brilliant Unc. Gem. Very Rare.", which I think pretty much sums up the matter.



670. **1885, Choice Proof.** 930 Proofs minted. Very attractive toning with light reddish-gold in the center and slightly deeper shades of blue and violet at the border. Purchased from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale as Lot 601 for \$20.

671. **1886, Choice Proof.** 886 Proofs minted. Light golden toning. Obtained as Lot 602 from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale for \$22.

672. **1886-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State. Softly struck on the head. Lustrous, satiny surfaces with mottled russet, violet and blue toning. Rim abrasion to the right of the mintmark. Purchased for \$7.75, date and seller unknown.

673. **1887, Proof.** 710 Proofs minted. Very attractive blue, greenish-gold and violet toning at the periphery. JJP paid \$20 for this Proof at Mike Kolman's sale in 7/61 where it was offered as Lot 603.

674. **1887-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Medium multicolored russet, violet and blue-green toning. Softly struck on the head as usual. JJP purchased this coin for \$1.60 in 1945 from George Bauer.

675. **1888, Proof.** 832 Proofs minted. Weakly struck on the head. Light reddish-gold toning. Purchased from Jim Charlton's 5/64 sale, Lot 276, for \$24.



676. **1888-S, Choice Uncirculated.** A beautiful, lustrous, satiny coin with very clean fields and attractive russet, violet and blue toning. This is a much more rare date than commonly thought, particularly in Mint State grades. In his reference book on Liberty Seated Dimes, Brian Greer notes that this issue is Low R-5 in Mint State. Purchased by JJP for \$15 as Lot 2812 of the famous Milton A. Holmes Collection sale conducted by Stack's in October 1960.

677. **1889, Choice Proof.** 711 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields and beautiful reddish-gold toning with a touch of violet and blue at the border. Purchased for \$150 from Superior's sale of the Dr. Charles L. Ruby Collection, Part I, February 1974.

678. **1889-S, Uncirculated.** Medium S. A frosty, highly lustrous specimen with almost full original brilliance and just a touch of light toning. The mintmark has been double punched. Purchased from Hollinbeck Coin Co.'s sale of the Rappaport Dime Collection, Lot 272, for \$10.

679. **1890, Proof.** 590 Proofs minted. Brilliant obverse with light reddish-gold toning, mainly near the periphery. The reverse has medium shades of blue-green, violet and greenish-gold. Purchased for \$37 from Jim Charlton's 5/64 sale, Lot 278.



680. **1890-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Medium S. Softly struck on the head and mintmark, but quite sharp elsewhere. Lightly lacquered, but still with outstanding luster and brilliance. Purchased from the Numismatic Gallery sale of 2/10/53, Lot 503, for \$6.25.



681. **1891, Very Choice Proof.** 600 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields with beautiful light to medium golden toning. Purchased by JJP for \$20 from Mike Kolman's 7/61 sale, Lot 604.



682. **1891-O, Gem Uncirculated.** Sharply struck, except for a slight weakness on Liberty's head; there is a partial wire rim on both sides. The coin has superb deep toning, a blend of greenish-gold, blue, and violet with a dash of russet. Beneath the deep toning, the fields are literally pristine. Purchased by JJP almost a half century ago for \$2.20 from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/48, Lot 384.

683. **1891-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Small S. Beautiful medium reddish-gold and blue-green toning with a touch of violet and blue. Softly struck at places on the wreath and on Liberty's head. Several digs in the left obverse field. Purchased in 1945 from George Bauer for \$1.30.



684. **1892, Barber Type. Choice Proof.** 1,245 Proofs minted. Brilliant mirror fields with just a trace of light golden toning and a few hairlines. Purchased for \$47.50 from Paramount International Coin Corp.'s NASC sale, 2/69, Lot 875.

685. **1892-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Vivid multicolored toning, "slide marks" on the face. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/48, Lot 387, for \$5.25.

686. **1892-S, Uncirculated.** "Slide marks" on the face and neck that were acquired from being in a Wayte Raymond holder. The coin is frosty and lustrous with a very sharp strike and beautiful toning. The S mintmark has been double punched. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's famous Menjou sale, 6/15/50, Lot 309, for \$21.

687. **1893-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Beautiful reddish-gold, violet and blue toning. Sharply struck and frosty.

688. **1893-S, Uncirculated,** but marred by heavy "slide marks" on the face and neck. This coin was kept for many years in a Wayte Raymond holder, and over the years, as the slide was moved back and forth to either enter new coins or take out and examine old ones, this coin (and some other Barber Dimes offered here) acquired "slide marks." This piece, unfortunately, fared worse than most. However, the coin does have attractive multicolored toning around the periphery, a nice blend of vivid blue and greenish-gold. Obtained by JJP from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/48, Lot 389, for \$9.

The mintmark on this specimen is widely triple punched. Of course, double punched mintmarks are not too unusual, but one rarely sees a triple punched mintmark, especially one as clearly triple punched as this one with all three punches widely separated from left to right. (The triple mintmark on this piece is much bolder and more obvious than the photo in Breen's Encyclopedia shows.) This variety is very scarce, if not rare.

RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1894-O DIME



689. **1894-O, Choice Uncirculated.** A well struck, satiny specimen with only a few light hairlines under hazy toning which is mostly reddish-gold in the center with violet and blue at the border. This is one of the rarest dates of the series in Mint State and, in fact, some consider it to be the most rare in Choice Uncirculated or higher grade. Purchased from Stack's 5/58 sale, Lot 1072, for \$145.

690. **1895-O, Good.** Full rims on the obverse and just starting to wear into the fields at the right reverse rim. Warm gray and iridescent toning. Tom Mulvaney, our auctioneer and color photographer, has asked me to be sure to point out that this specimen is not as nice as the one in the Mulvaney Collection.

691. **1895-S, Uncirculated.** Very attractive multicolored toning that is mostly restricted to the periphery on both sides. The predominant colors are reddish-brown, blue, violet and greenish-gold. Once again, "slide marks" mar the appearance of the coin; they are fairly numerous on the face and neck. There are also a few light contact marks in the fields as well as several sharp nicks on the face. This coin is actually much nicer than the description makes it sound.

BORDERLINE GEM 1896-O DIME



692. **1896-O, Very Choice Uncirculated,** if not a full Gem. This coin has been lightly lacquered, but it has brilliant frosty mint luster under the lacquering and just a trace of light golden toning. There are a few scattered contact marks, but the coin is really of very high quality. This is one of the rarest issues of the entire series and examples of this caliber are in very short supply. Purchased as Lot 521 for \$55 from Numismatic Gallery's 2/53 sale.

693. A trio of scarce date Barber Dimes including **1895-O, About Good**, severely damaged in the center of the reverse, **1896-S, Very Fine**, but cleaned, several scratches within the reverse wreath, light irregular toning; and **1901-S, About Good**, worn well into the wreath on the reverse. Three pieces.



694. **1897-O, Gem Uncirculated.** Very similar in appearance to the 1896-O, but of even higher overall quality. This is a frosty, lustrous coin that has been lightly lacquered. It now has just a trace of light golden toning, but the frosty surfaces have virtually no marks of any kind and the coin is really quite superb. The 1897-O Dime is considerably more often seen than the 1896-O, but it is still rare at this Gem level. Same source as the 1896-O, i.e. the February 1953 Numismatic Gallery sale where it was offered as Lot 525 and realized \$47.50.



695. **1897-S, Gem Uncirculated.** A gorgeous specimen with a full strike, frosty mint luster, and superb toning in sunset shades of reddish-gold, violet and blue. The surfaces of the coin are very clean and unmarked with no more than a faint hairline or two. There are several raised die scratches on the jaw and neck. Although not generally as highly regarded as the 1897-O, it has been my experience that this issue is actually more rare, particularly in the higher Mint State grades. Acquired by JJP from French's on 2/13/59 for \$72.50.

696. **1898-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Multicolored toning on both sides. "Slide marks" appear on the face and on the truncation of the neck.



697. **1899-O, Gem Uncirculated.** A frosty specimen with full original mint luster and only a few inconsequential marks. Similar in general appearance to the 1896-O and 1897-O, but without the lacquering. One of the more underrated issues of the series. It is similar in rarity to the 1897-S and actually a bit more rare than the 1897-O. Acquired at the Numismatic Gallery sale of 2/53 as Lot 531 for \$24.

698. **1899-S, Uncirculated.** Double punched mintmark. Light reddish-gold toning, noticeable "slide marks" on the face and neck. Purchased from Davis McKinney on 2/8/61 for \$45.



699. **1900-O, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with a square edge and a wire rim that has numerous tiny cuds. The coin has frosty surfaces with light mottled multicolored toning featuring shades of violet, blue-green and gold as well as a dash of electric blue. Although others have stated differently, I feel that this issue, while certainly very scarce, is not as rare in this grade as such dates as 1896-O, 1897-S, or 1899-O.

700. **1900-S, Uncirculated.** Medium multicolored toning with shades of russet, blue and greenish-gold. Some faint "slide marks" on the face, but they are not as prominent as on several of the other Barber Dimes offered here. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/48, Lot 400, for \$6.25.

701. A pair of Barber Dimes including **1901-O, Extremely Fine**, cleaned, now with irregular golden toning; and **1907-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated**, attractive violet, russet and blue peripheral toning. Two pieces.



702. **1902-O, Very Choice Uncirculated,** close to Gem quality. Very sharply struck for an O Mint Dime with superb frosty mint luster and gorgeous multicolored toning which features shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold. A very underrated issue in high grade; examples this nice are surprisingly rare.



703. **1903-O, Very Choice Uncirculated,** with legitimate claims to full Gem status. The coin has satiny mint luster and beautiful multicolored peripheral toning. Very scarce this choice.

704. **1904-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Light blue and gold toning. Cleaned, now with a number of light hairlines in the wreath and on the face. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/48, Lot 408, for \$11.

705. **1905-O, Uncirculated.** Beautiful light multicolored toning. Unfortunately, this is another coin that is marred by "slide marks" on the face and neck. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, 12/48, Lot 409, for \$3.75.

706. **1905-S, Choice Uncirculated.** A beautiful, satiny specimen with warm reddish-gold, violet and blue-green toning. The surfaces are very clean except for some minor "slide marks" on the face and a few even lighter ones on the truncation of the neck.

707. **1906-D, Uncirculated.** Lustrous, with attractive multicolored toning. "Slide marks" on the face, but they are not as detracting as they are on some other coins in the set. Purchased privately from James Kelly, 4/30/43, for \$1.50. This was one of JJP's earliest purchases.



708. **1906-O, Gem Uncirculated.** A superbly toned specimen with the light golden centers turning first to russet, then violet, then blue, and finally greenish-gold at the borders. The surfaces are frosty and lustrous. Purchased privately from James Kelly, 12/10/43, for \$1.25.



709. **1906-S, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Beautiful reddish-brown, blue and greenish-gold toning. A few very light "slide marks" on the face as well as a few contact marks on the cheek. Purchased from the New Netherlands 17th sale, 5/44, Lot 902, for \$3.40.



710. **1907, Very Choice Proof.** 575 Proofs minted. Mostly brilliant obverse, but with beautiful multicolored peripheral toning. The reverse is more deeply toned in shades of blue, violet and greenish-gold.

711. **1907-D, Uncirculated.** An attractively toned specimen with light reddish-gold in the centers turning to russet and then blue-green at the borders. The obverse has moderately heavy "slide marks" on both the face and the truncation of the neck. Purchased from Walter Webb's 10/44 sale, Lot 1030, for \$3.30.

712. **1907-O, Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with lustrous, frosty surfaces and superb peripheral toning, a blend of greenish-gold, blue and violet. Purchased privately from Walter Webb for \$0.75 on 12/4/43.

713. A group of five Denver Mint Barber Dimes including **1908-D**, **1911-D**, **1912-D (two pieces)** and **1914-D**. All of the coins grade **Almost Uncirculated** and have varying degrees of light to medium toning. Some of the coins have been cleaned and several have moderate "slide marks" or abrasions on the face. Five pieces.

714. **1908-O, Uncirculated.** Attractive peripheral toning on the obverse, vivid greenish-gold, blue and violet toning on the reverse. Light "slide marks" on the face. Evidence of repunching on the date. Purchased privately from James Kelly, 12/10/43, for \$1.25.

715. **1908-S, Uncirculated.** Light reddish-gold toning with a few violet and blue highlights. Sharply struck and frosty.



716. **1909, Gem Proof.** 650 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields and superb toning, a blend of medium blue, green and reddish-gold on the obverse, and lighter reddish-gold with a hint of violet and blue on the reverse.

717. **1909-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Medium russet and blue-green toning on the obverse, pale reddish-gold with a trace of blue on the reverse. The source of this coin was Walter Webb's 10/44 sale, Lot 1038; the price was \$2.80.



718. **1909-O, Choice Uncirculated.** A frosty, lustrous specimen with beautiful reddish-violet and greenish-gold obverse toning, as well as deeper, cooler shades of blue and greenish-gold on the reverse. Purchased from the New Netherlands 17th sale, 5/44, Lot 909, for \$1.60.

719. **1909-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Irregular, light multi-colored toning and some moderately heavy "slide marks" on the face and neck.



720. **1910, Gem Proof.** 551 Proofs minted. Superb light to medium violet, greenish-gold and blue toning. Deep mirror fields that are very clean except for one tiny mark in the field at the point of Liberty's chin. The reverse is superb and considerably more deeply toned than the obverse.

721. **1910-D, Choice Uncirculated.** A beautiful specimen with frosty surfaces and attractive sunset toning, mostly reddish-gold and blue; medium shades on the obverse, paler ones on the reverse. Purchased privately from James Kelly, 4/30/43, for \$1.50.



722. **1910-S, Choice Uncirculated,** despite a few faint "slide marks" on the face. Lustrous, satiny surfaces and beautiful peripheral toning, mostly reddish-gold and blue-green. Purchased from the 1948 ANA sale, Lot 815, for \$6. The lot also contained a 1910-D, later sold.



723. **1911-S, Uncirculated.** Mottled multicolored toning with some toning spots in the obverse field in front of the face.



724. **1912-S, Very Choice Uncirculated,** a borderline Gem. Lustrous, satiny surfaces with slightly hazy light golden toning. A few tiny spots on the obverse.



725. **1913-S, Uncirculated.** A sharply struck specimen with attractive light multicolored toning on the reverse, pale reddish-gold on the obverse. Faint "slide marks" on the face. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection, 6/47, Lot 1452, for \$21.



726. **1914-S, Choice Uncirculated,** with the overall look of a much higher grade coin since it has fantastic luster and beautiful natural reddish-gold toning at the borders. This coin would easily be a Gem were it not for a few light "slide marks" on the cheek. The luster, originality, and overall look of this coin far exceed its technical grade.

728. **1915-S, Very Choice Uncirculated.** A lustrous, satiny specimen with rather uniform light reddish-gold toning over much of the surface, although there is a trace of darker reddish-brown near the date and on the tip of the bust.



729. **1916-S, Barber Type, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Lustrous, satiny surfaces, a very sharp strike, and beautiful original reddish-brown peripheral toning.

730. A pair of Uncirculated Mercury Dimes dated 1916 and 1916-S. Both coins grade at least Very Choice Uncirculated, if not Gem. The 1916 has Full Bands, the 1916-S does not. The 1916-S has light cloudy golden toning, the 1916 has more vivid toning at the top of the obverse. Two pieces.

RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1916-D DIME



727. **1915, Very Choice Proof.** 450 Proofs minted. Light pastel toning on the obverse, deeper toning on the reverse, a nice combination of violet, blue and greenish-gold.

731. **1916-D, Choice Uncirculated.** A frosty, lustrous specimen with a very sharp strike and superb multicolored toning, russet and violet with a touch of blue on the obverse, lighter reddish-gold around the periphery of the reverse. Well struck, but the bands are not quite full, although the center band does show some separation. A faint scratch runs diagonally across the truncation of the neck, but this coin certainly has the look of a much higher grade example due to its excellent luster and color. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's 1947 Will W. Neil Collection sale, Lot 1479, for \$78.50. In his catalogue description, Mehl noted that Neil had purchased this coin from him in 1928 for 20 cents.

This is the lowest mintage, most desirable issue of this popular series; only 264,000 were struck and Uncirculated coins have always been in great demand. Even in the lowest circulated grades from Good to Fine, the 1916-D is one of the most highly coveted minor coins of the Twentieth Century.

732. A group of three Philadelphia Mint Mercury Dimes including **1917**, **1918** and **1919**. The first two dates grade **Uncirculated** and have light greenish-gold toning near the border. The 1919 is the nicest coin of this group and is **Choice Uncirculated** with superb greenish-gold and russet peripheral toning and virtually Full Bands. Three pieces.

733. A pair of scarce date Mercury Dimes including **1917-D** and **1927-S**, both coins grading **Choice Almost Uncirculated**. They are mostly brilliant with just a touch of light toning. Neither coin has Full Bands. Two pieces.

734. **1917-S, Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Excellent luster and attractive light golden toning.

735. **1918-D, Very Choice Uncirculated**. A lustrous specimen with beautiful satiny surfaces which have very few marks and attractive light golden toning. The coin is very weak at the borders, especially on the right side of both the obverse and reverse. Purchased privately from B. Max Mehl on 2/18/44 for \$3.50. This is one of the very few non-auction purchases JJP ever made from Mehl. Nearly all of his purchases from the legendary Ft. Worth, Texas, dealer were made from Mehl's many famous mail-bid-only sales.

736. **1918-S, Very Choice Uncirculated**. Weakly struck in the centers, as usual for this date. A very attractive, lustrous specimen with light reddish-gold toning and tarnish around the rim and edge.

737. **1919-D, Choice Uncirculated**. Lustrous, satiny surfaces with irregular, but attractive, greenish-gold and russet toning.



738. **1919-S, Very Choice Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck with partial bands. Light golden toning with splashes of reddish-brown tarnish. Purchased from a 10/44 Walter Webb sale, Lot 1067, for \$2.60.

739. **1920, Gem Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck with virtually Full Bands and beautiful natural greenish-gold and russet toning. Many raised die scratches throughout the obverse field.



740. **1920-D, Gem Uncirculated**. Full Bands. An original, sharply struck specimen with light golden toning and darker tarnish type toning on the edge and at the borders. Some raised die scratches in the fields, especially behind the neck.

RARE GEM 1920-S FULL BANDS DIME



741. **1920-S, Gem Uncirculated**. Full Bands. An outstanding example of this rare issue. It is fully struck with lustrous, satiny surfaces, and superb russet peripheral toning highlighted with a dash of violet and greenish-gold. The centers of the coin are a pale natural gold color. The left obverse field shows numerous raised die scratches in front of the face and around the letters LI and the motto. Purchased for \$6 from the 1946 ANA auction conducted by Numismatic Gallery where it was Lot 382.

In Gem condition, the 1920-S is one of the premier rarities of the Mercury Dime series. It is clearly more rare in Gem than the heralded 1916-D, 1921 and 1921-D, and is surpassed in rarity only by the two overdates of 1942.

742. **1921, Choice Almost Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck with virtually Full Bands. Light golden toning over most of the surface of the coin, deeper russet and greenish-gold near the left obverse border.



743. **1921-D, Choice Uncirculated**. Full Bands. A very attractive, original specimen with light multicolored obverse toning. The reverse is mostly brilliant with just a trace of multicolored iridescence at the mintmark and denomination. This is one of the rarest and most popular issues of the series; it also has the second lowest mintage after the 1916-D. Purchased from the Will W. Neil Collection sale, 6/47, Lot 1484, for \$11.25.

744. A pair of **Uncirculated** Mercury Dimes dated **1923** and **1925**. The 1923 is very sharply struck with Full Bands and attractive natural toning. The 1925 has tarnish type toning around the edge and near the borders, and light golden toning in the fields. Two pieces.

745. **1923-S, Uncirculated**. Mottled multicolored toning on the obverse, peripheral shades of blue, russet and greenish-gold on the reverse.

746. **1924, Gem Uncirculated**. Full Bands. A superb, original specimen with full mint luster and magnificent multicolored toning at the borders, mostly greenish-gold, violet and blue.

747. 1924-D, Choice Uncirculated. A few reddish-brown toning spots on the obverse, light golden toning on the reverse.

748. 1924-S, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Very lustrous with mottled blue and russet toning on the obverse, and just a trace of toning on the reverse near the lower right border.



749. 1925-D, Very Choice Uncirculated. Virtually Full Bands, but weakly struck at the borders and the tops of several letters, including BE on the obverse and STATES OF AMERICA on the reverse. The E in the denomination ONE to the left of the mintmark is also weak, as is the date, in which the 5 is only partially visible. The coin is lustrous and original with just a trace of light golden toning as well as areas of darker reddish-brown.



750. 1925-S, Choice Uncirculated. The bands show some definition, but are not quite full. The obverse has medium mottled toning with shades of blue-green, greenish-gold and a dash of violet and russet. Acquired from Walter Webb's 10/44 sale, Lot 1076, for \$2.35.

751. 1926, Gem Uncirculated. Virtually Full Bands. This coin has superb luster and very attractive light to medium golden toning with considerable tarnish type toning around the edge.

752. 1926-D, Gem Uncirculated. A lustrous, original coin with superb light golden toning and deeper tarnish shades of russet and greenish-gold at the borders.



753. 1926-S, Choice Uncirculated. Lustrous with beautiful greenish-gold, blue-green and violet toning, most of it on the obverse, just a trace near the border on the reverse.

754. 1927, Very Choice Uncirculated. Beautiful light natural golden toning highlighted with darker tarnish shades of reddish-brown near the borders. The coin is very sharply struck and has Full Bands.

755. 1927-D, Choice Uncirculated. Sharply struck with full mint luster and beautiful reddish-gold and violet toning near the borders, as well as some tarnish around the edge. Purchased from Walter Webb's 10/44 sale, Lot 1080, for \$5.75.

756. A pair of Philadelphia Mint Mercury Dimes including 1928 and 1929. Both coins grade Choice Uncirculated and have Full Bands. Two pieces.



757. 1928-D, Very Choice Uncirculated, almost in the Gem class. Full Bands. Very sharply struck and lustrous. Attractive natural golden toning with deeper tarnish shades near the borders.

758. 1928-S, Gem Uncirculated. A lustrous, original specimen with light gold and reddish-brown tarnish type toning, the tarnish restricted entirely to the borders and edge.

759. 1929-D, Choice Uncirculated. Light golden toning with some tarnish at the borders; and 1929-S, Very Choice Uncirculated, a borderline Gem. Virtually Full Bands. Attractive natural golden toning with some tarnish near the rims. Two pieces.

760. 1930, Choice Uncirculated. Full Bands. A lustrous, sharply struck specimen with streaky greenish-gold toning; and 1934, Gem Uncirculated. Full Bands. Light iridescent toning, weak 4 in the date. Two pieces.

761. 1930-S, Gem Uncirculated. Light golden toning with a touch of tarnish at the rims.

762. A pair of Mercury Dimes including 1931 and 1934-D. Both coins grade Choice Uncirculated with golden toning and tarnish on the edge and rims. Two pieces.

763. 1931-D, Gem Uncirculated. Virtually Full Bands. Light golden toning with tarnish on the edge and rims and just barely into the fields around BE of LIBERTY.

764. 1931-S, Gem Uncirculated. Virtually Full Bands. Very similar in overall quality and appearance to the preceding with excellent luster, light golden toning, and some tarnish at the borders.

765. A group of 33 Mercury Dimes from 1935-PDS to 1945-PDS, missing only the two overdates of 1942, and the 1945 Micro S. Grades range from **Uncirculated** to **Gem Uncirculated**. Most of the coins are original and have full mint luster, generally sharp strikes, and light to medium toning, principally gold with tarnish at the borders and on the edges. Some of the coins have Full Bands, but the 1945 does not. The 1942 has a long scratch on the obverse, the other coins have only light marks. 33 pieces.



766. **1942/1, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous, with attractive light golden toning and deeper colors near the periphery, mostly greenish-gold with some violet and russet. Softly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face. A few light obverse hairlines, but few, if any, contact marks. There is just a trace of friction on the high points and the overall appearance is that of a Mint State piece.

U.S. TWENTY CENT PIECES

PROOF 1875 TWENTY CENT PIECE



767. **1875, Proof**, nearly in the Choice category. 2,790 Proofs minted. Full mirror fields and beautiful medium multicolored iridescent toning with shades of russet, reddish-gold, blue and greenish-gold. A few light hairlines and marks on the obverse, but the reverse is very choice. Purchased by JJP for \$350 from RARCOA's 1973 FUN sale, Lot 975.

768. **1875-CC, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Light to medium multi-colored toning, a blend of russet, blue and greenish-gold. There are some light hairlines in the fields as well as a few tiny contact marks. The reverse is heavily striated. Purchased 2/18/47 from a Wayne Raymond sale, Lot 464, for \$20.

UNCIRCULATED 1875-S TWENTY CENTS



769. **1875-S, Uncirculated.** A frosty specimen with very attractive light reddish-gold toning. The reverse has numerous fine die breaks that connect the rim to various letters and design devices.

U.S. PATTERNS

1836 PATTERN TWO CENTS, JUDD-54



770. **1836, Two Cent Piece, Judd-54, Pollock-57, Copper, Plain Edge.** Rarity-6. 59.2 grains. Choice Proof. Several blatant engraving errors clearly show, including an E originally cut in place of the A in STATES, and the 6 first erroneously punched in the 3's position. Sharply struck with a high wire rim. Light iridescent toning and considerable original mint red. There are some light hairlines in the fields as well as several spots. Purchased by JJP for \$55 as Lot 5 from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA Convention sale.

A die break runs in three directions from the eagle's right wing: 1) through the left side of the A to the rim; 2) down through the cloud and the stop between the date and AMERICA to the rim; and 3) from the top of the eagle's wing into the field, past the eagle's beak toward the E in STATES. Struck with dies parallel to each other, i.e. rotated 180 degrees from the normal "coin turn" of U.S. coinage. All of these characteristics indicate that this is a Restrike minted more than 20 years after the date on the coin. An estimated 20-25 examples are known.

1838 PATTERN HALF DOLLAR, JUDD-72



771. 1838, Half Dollar, J-72, P-75, Silver, Reeded Edge. Rarity-5. 192.4 grains. **Proof**, very nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck with a square edge, partial wire rim and deep mirror fields. The dies are rotated 180 degrees from normal, i.e. they are parallel to one another and thus the coin has what is called "medal turn" as opposed to "coin turn", the latter standard on all regular issue U.S. coinage. The coin is mostly brilliant with beautiful medium reddish-gold and violet toning around the borders. There are a number of light hairlines in the fields, as well as numerous raised die scratches, especially on the reverse. There is also a lint mark above the eagle's head just below ES in STATES. Purchased from E. Parker for \$55, date of purchase unknown.

As was the case with the preceding lot, this is undoubtedly a Restrike that was minted more than 20 years after the coin's date. It was struck on a planchet that was standard weight from late 1853 on (192 grains vs. the 206.25 grains of the years, 1836-1853), and was undoubtedly minted in the heyday of restriking at the Mint, 1858-1861, under Director James Ross Snowden. Perhaps 40-50 examples of this pattern are known.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1839 PATTERN HALF DOLLAR, JUDD-101

One Of Only 2-3 Examples Known.



772. 1839, Half Dollar, J-101, P-112, Silver, Plain Edge. Rarity-8. 192.2 grains. **Gem Proof**. This is an unbelievable quality coin that must be seen to be fully appreciated. It is fully struck with deep mirror fields and the most beautiful multicolored toning imaginable, a blend of reddish-gold and violet in the centers, turning to deeper blue and greenish-gold at the borders. On the reverse, there is considerable evidence of die rust in the legend and around the eagle's wings. In addition, there are very heavy die scratches around the obverse stars and near the border on the reverse. There is also die rust in the right obverse field of a much finer grain than the aforementioned die rust on the reverse. This piece was catalogued as Lot 987 in Numismatic Gallery's famous Menjou sale in 1950. However, the piece was so grossly miscatalogued that it was withdrawn. JJP purchased it privately from Abe Kosoff on 1/23/51, the year after the sale, for \$50.

The reverse of this pattern is rotated 180 degrees from normal, meaning the dies are parallel and the coin has "medal turn" as opposed to the normal "coin turn" that is standard on U.S. coinage. Also, the weight conforms to the standard established in 1853. This is obviously a Restrike and was probably struck at the Mint sometime between 1858 and 1861. (Actually, it is more accurate to call a piece such as this a

"Fantasy Restrike" since no comparable pieces were struck earlier. A coin cannot be "restruck" if it was never struck in the first place.) It is believed that only the following three examples are known, although it is possible that No. 1 is the same as No. 2 or No. 3, which would mean that only two specimens are known.

1. Waldo Newcomer; Gable: 1520 (1914) at \$90.00; Woodside: 35 (1892). Weight 193.2 grains, per Judd.
2. Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation. Weight 191.7 grains, per Pollock.
3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Menjou: 987. Weight 192.2 grains.

Note: In the Menjou sale, the cataloguers described this coin as a regular issue 1839 With Drapery Half Dollar and further stated, "Acquired as a proof and, indeed, the reverse is brilliant, but undoubtedly it is an early striking. Uncirculated." (Apparently, they didn't notice that the reverse was a little different and that the edge was plain!) Walter Breen later mentioned this lot in his Proof Encyclopedia as a possible Proof 1839 With Drapery Half Dollar, obviously based solely on the Menjou catalogue description. (One error often leads to another in numismatics, as in life.) He further opined that it might be the coin that later appeared in 1961 as Lichtenfels: 2799. It is interesting to note that the Pittman Collection also contains the Lichtenfels coin which is a true Proof 1839 With Drapery Half Dollar, the only specimen known.



1849 PATTERN THREE CENTS, JUDD-114



773. 1849, Three Cent Piece, J-111, P-125, Silver 50%, Copper 50%, Reeded Edge. Rarity-6. 24.7 grains. Proof. Heavily lacquered with the lacquer now discolored, particularly evident on the left side of the obverse and on the reverse near the upper left rim. The coin has numerous light hairlines, but it is difficult to tell whether these are only in the lacquering or whether they have actually affected the surface of the coin as well. This pattern was struck from the obverse die of the 1849 Half Dime with a repunched 9. There is also a die lump between the 10th and 11th stars. Both the obverse and reverse fields are heavily striated. This is clearly a Restrike with the reverse die rotated 180 degrees from normal. Very rare, only 20-25 examples are known. Purchased by JJP as Lot 2320 from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1960 for \$46.

1850 PATTERN THREE CENTS, JUDD-125



774. 1849, Three Cent Piece, J-112, P-126, Silver 60%, Copper 40%, Reeded Edge. Rarity-6. 19.0 grains. Choice Proof. Attractive, medium multicolored toning with iridescent sunset shades of reddish-gold, green and violet. Struck from the same obverse die as the preceding, namely the regular obverse die of an 1849 Half Dime with a repunched 9 and the prominent die chip between the 10th and 11th stars. This piece is very sharply struck with a high wire rim. There is a prominent die break that runs most of the length of Liberty's left arm. There is also a die imperfection running vertically from Liberty's waist across her left leg. Like all of the patterns offered here so far, this coin has a 180 degree rotated reverse and is undoubtedly a Restrike that was struck a decade or more later than its date. Very rare, only 20-25 examples are known. Purchased for \$32.50 as Lot 20 from the 1958 ANA Convention sale conducted by Abe Kosoff. Previously, the coin was Lot 922 in Stack's Metropolitan New York Numismatic Convention sale of May 1956.

On JJP's coin envelope he notes, "Bowers (Q. David) wants \$47.50", presumably for another piece, which surely made JJP happy since he had only paid \$32.50 for his coin. Although he never really purchased any coin for investment, getting a good value was always very important to JJP.



775. Undated (1849), Three Cent Piece, J-114, P-128, Copper Nickel, Plain Edge. Rarity-7. 24.9 grains. Proof. A mule struck using the reverses of the two preceding lots, namely J-111 and J-112. This coin has very little proof surface and has natural reddish-gold and light iridescent toning. There are also a few minor spots on both sides. This is a Restrike probably minted sometime in the 1858-1861 period, and was struck with a 180 degree rotated reverse. According to the Pollock book, only six examples are known. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 21, for \$45.

Enlarged Photographs

Most of the photographs in this catalogue have been enlarged to a minimum of 30 millimeters. The photographs of certain featured coins have been increased in diameter to 45 millimeters or more.

1856 PATTERN HALF CENT, JUDD-177



778. 1859, Indian Head Cent, J-228, P-272, Copper Nickel, Plain Edge. Rarity-6. 71.8 grains. Choice Proof, but lightly lacquered. Attractive light golden toning. Prominent recutting on the second S of STATES and on the O in OF. Several small carbon spots on the obverse on Liberty's throat and neck, and in the field in front of the face. There are several small abrasions on all three letters of ONE in the denomination, as well as in the field just to the left. This is a popular Transitional Pattern with the regular issue obverse of 1859 and the regular issue reverse of 1860. Business strikes were also minted and circulated to some degree. Approximately 25-30 Proofs are known, as well as more than a thousand business strikes, which are only R-1.

VERY RARE 1859 PATTERN DOUBLE EAGLE, JUDD-257



779. 1859, Double Eagle, J-257, P-305, Copper, Gilt, Reeded Edge. Rarity-6. 321.7 grains. Proof. Light cloudy toning with just a hint of blue iridescence. There are several tiny edge nicks on the reverse rim, and there is a prominent lint mark at the first T of STATES. The profile of the seated figure of Liberty is distinctly doubled from the

top of her hair to the end of her nose. The few hairlines in the fields are very light, well scattered, and largely concealed by the cloudy toning. Very rare, only 15-20 examples are believed known. This pattern was purchased by JJP from Abner Kreisberg's 9/18/61 sale, Lot 1219, for \$175.

1862 PATTERN HALF DOLLAR, JUDD-293



780. 1862, Half Dollar, J-293, P-351, Silver, Reeded Edge. Rarity-5. 191.8 grains. Choice Proof. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and beautiful medium russet and blue toning with highlights of violet and gold. Some light hairlines under the toning, but nothing at all serious. Numerous striations from die polishing on the reverse. Purchased by JJP for \$18.50 from Barney Bluestone's 97th sale, 6/47, Lot 1595.

1863 PATTERN TWO CENTS, JUDD-305



781. 1863, Two Cent Piece, J- 305, P-370, Bronze, Plain Edge, Thick Planchet (AW-404). Rarity-4. 90.5 grains. Choice Proof. Full mirror fields with numerous die scratches from die polishing plainly evident. Beautiful light iridescent toning, mostly greenish-gold and violet. There are a few very minor spots and several faint hairlines in the fields under the toning. From an historical perspective, this is an especially interesting and important pattern since it represents the first depiction of an actual person, George Washington, on a proposed U.S. coin design. Purchased for \$35 from the 1958 ANA sale conducted by Abe Kosoff where the coin appeared as Lot 1532.

1863 PATTERN TWO CENTS, JUDD-316



782. 1863, Two Cent Piece, J-316, P-381, Bronze, Plain Edge. Rarity-6. 94.4 grains. Gem Proof. The design adopted in 1864 with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on a scroll above the shield. This piece has full original mint red color with just a trace of light violet toning on the obverse and slightly deeper shades of violet, greenish-gold and blue on the reverse. There are a few very tiny spots on the obverse, notably in a little cluster to the left of the date, but the overall quality of the coin is absolutely stunning. There is noticeable repunching on

the date, particularly at the 8 and the 6. Purchased as Lot 389 from Barney Bluestone's 99th sale, 12/47, for \$18.75.

This is a so-called "Transitional Pattern", dated one year prior to the adoption of the design for regular issue coinage. However, as Walter Breen points out, it, "May have been struck late in 1864 or still later; note that the hub is chipped at upper serif of (UNITE) D as on the last 1864 business strikes and later years." This is certainly a very rare and popular pattern; no more than 25-30 are known, few of which match the quality of this specimen.

The following twelve lots consist of most of the coins in the set of 1868 regular dies trial pieces struck in aluminum. Missing, however, are the Indian Head Cent, the Two Cent piece, the Shield Nickel and the Ten Dollar gold piece. JJP purchased almost all of this partial set from just two sources, Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, and Empire Coin Co. in 1961. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful in his attempts to complete it. He did own the Shield Nickel at one time, but it was stolen in the home invasion robbery of April 10, 1964.

Four or five complete aluminum dies trial sets were struck in 1868 at the instruction of Henry R. Linderman, Director of the Mint. One of these sets, in an original leather presentation case, was in the Garrett Collection sale in 1979, Lot 396. This set later appeared in the 1997 ANA sale as Lot 7289. Another nearly complete set (undoubtedly assembled rather than original) was offered as individual pieces in Bowers and Merena's 1984 Arnold/Romisa sale. It was missing only the Nickel Three Cent and Five Cent pieces. Another complete set, an original set in the possession of descendants of Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury in 1868, reportedly was sold privately in recent years. In addition to the 4-5 complete sets, apparently a few extra pieces of each denomination were also struck, because today an estimated 6-8 specimens are known of each denomination.



783. 1868, Nickel Three Cent Piece, J-621, P-690, Aluminum, Plain Edge. Rarity-7. 10.8 grains. Choice Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Light golden toning. Sharply struck with a high wire rim that shows some marks and irregularities. A number of raised die scratches in the fields, but only a few light hairlines. Prominent doubling on CA of AMERICA in the obverse legend, faint doubling on a number of other letters. Purchased privately on 8/9/61 from the Empire Coin Co. (Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy) for \$65. Formerly in the Major Lenox R. Lohr Collection.



784. 1868, Silver Three Cent Piece, J-622, P-691, Aluminum, Plain Edge. Rarity-7. 5.0 grains. Choice Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Light golden toning that is somewhat cloudy. Prominent wire rim that has a number of irregularities which occurred both at the time of striking and subsequently. There are die scratches and several lint marks in the fields as well as a few tiny hairlines and scuffs. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1596, for \$32.



785. 1868, Half Dime, J-639, P-711, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 8.2 grains. Very Choice Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Sharply struck with a high wire rim and just a trace of light golden toning. The reverse is fully Gem quality, the obverse has a few light hairlines. Numerous light striations and raised die scratches in the fields. The high wire rim has a few tiny irregularities, nothing serious. Purchased privately from Empire Coin Co., 8/9/61, for \$75. Ex. Lenox Lohr Collection.

786. 1868, Dime, J-649, P-722, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 11.6 grains. Gem Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Brilliant mirror fields with light golden toning and no hairlines or other impairments. Very sharply struck with a high wire rim that shows virtually no irregularities. For an aluminum pattern, this piece is of exceptionally high overall quality. Purchased from the 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1606, for \$45.



787. 1868, Quarter Dollar, J-650, P-723, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 28.0 grains. Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Light golden toning, light hairlines throughout the fields. The high wire rim has been filed in places. Some planchet roughness and spots are noticeable on the reverse. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 3/61 sale, Lot 907, for \$72.50.



788. 1868, Half Dollar, J-651, P-724, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 51.8 grains. Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Brilliant mirror fields with just a touch of light golden toning. Numerous light hairlines in the fields, more prevalent on the obverse than they are on the reverse, which is actually very choice. Very sharply struck with a partial wire rim on both obverse and reverse. It appears that the rim might have been filed in places. Purchased from Stack's R.E. Cox sale in May 1962, Lot 2225, for \$160. Previously in the Lenox Lohr Collection.



789. 1868, Silver Dollar, J-652, P-725, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 112.8 grains. Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Cleaned, now dull and cloudy with light golden toning and numerous light hairlines in the fields. Serious corrosion on the rim with the end result being that some of the rim has been eaten away. There are also several spots of this corrosion on the obverse in the shield, on the figure of Liberty, and in the field below the cap. JJP's notes indicate that this coin, "Needs to be improved", meaning, of course, that he was on the lookout for a superior specimen, which apparently never became available to him. Purchased privately from Empire Coin Co., 8/9/61, for \$75. Ex. Lenox Lohr Collection.

790. 1868, Gold Dollar, J-653, P-726, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 5.3 grains. Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Light golden toning. High wire rim with several noticeable nicks. There is a tiny lint mark in the field in front of Liberty's chin. There are also two raised die rust spots on the neck near the next to last curl. (These rust spots are not on the Proof Gold Dollars of 1868, indicating that these aluminum pieces were struck after the gold ones. Also, the reverse die of this piece is aligned normally, not rotated 180° as with the gold.) Above the headdress there is a scrape running from the second S in STATES diagonally to the bottom right foot of the M in AMERICA; a few other light hairlines are noticeable in the fields. Purchased privately from Empire Coin Co., 8/9/61, for \$125. Ex. Lenox Lohr Collection.



791. 1868, Quarter Eagle, J-654, P-727, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 7.5 grains. Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Very thin planchet, which is the reason for the low weight. The reverse has a trace of corrosion and some light hairlines. The obverse has a spot on the cheek to the left of the earlobe as well as a semi-circular cut on the truncation of the neck directly above the last 8 in the date. Light golden toning throughout; weakly struck at the denticles. Purchased by JJP from the 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1607, for \$65.



792. 1868, Three Dollar Gold Piece, J-655, P-728, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 14.6 grains. Proof. Regular Dies Trial Piece. Light hairlines on the obverse, moderately hairlined reverse. Light golden toning. Planchet roughness at I of UNITED. There are several areas on the wire rim that appear to have been filed; possibly this was done at the Mint. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1608, for \$160.



793. 1868, Half Eagle, J-660, P-733, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. **Rarity-7.** 22.4 grains. **Choice Proof.** Regular Dies Trial Piece. Brilliant mirror fields with attractive light golden toning; the reverse is very nearly Gem quality and the obverse has only a few very light hairlines. As is the case with a number of pieces in this set, it appears as though the wire rim has been filed. It is possible that this was done at the Mint immediately after striking in an attempt to remove an unsightly high wire rim; of course, it is also possible that it was done some time in the intervening 129 years, but it will never be possible to say with any degree of certainty. At any rate, it is not terribly detracting and this coin is one of the higher quality pieces in the set. Purchased from the 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1609, for \$100.

794. 1868, Double Eagle, J-665, P-740, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. **Rarity-7.** 83.0 grains. **Proof.** Regular Dies Trial Piece. The fields are brilliant and mirrorlike with just a trace of light golden toning. There are a few light hairlines on Liberty's face including one fairly prominent one running from her chin toward her cheek. The fields, however, are quite clean with only a few very faint hairlines. There are some planchet irregularities and porosity on the reverse near the N of UNITED, and around and above TY D of the denomination. There is also a very tiny cut on the rim above the E in STATES. Close examination shows evidence of filing on the obverse rim above Liberty's head; the reverse also shows filing below the denomination. It is possible that this was performed at the Mint immediately after striking, but, of course, the possibility also exists that it was done subsequently. Purchased from the 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1611, for \$190.

VERY RARE GEM 1868 PATTERN TEN CENTS, JUDD-647



795. 1868, Ten Cents, J-647, P-720, Nickel, Plain Edge. **Rarity-6.** 154.1 grains. **Gem Proof.** A superb, nearly flawless specimen with beautiful light reddish-gold toning. The plain edge is brilliant and mirrorlike, much more mirrorlike than the actual fields of the coin. There are numerous light striations and die polishing lines throughout the fields, but no hairlines, marks, spots or impairments of any kind, and the coin is literally "as

struck". It is interesting to note that on the reverse between the A and M in AMERICA, there is a raised area that appears to be the remnants of the top of another A. There is also slight repunching on the date. This pattern is very rare with only 25-30 examples known. JJP purchased this coin from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA Convention auction, Lot 51, for \$50.

The following eleven lots represent an almost unprecedented offering of the dies trial strikes of the famous Amazonian Gold Set of 1872. A complete aluminum set is offered here, and the copper set is nearly complete, missing only the Double Eagle. This set has one of the most attractive gold designs ever proposed for U.S. gold coinage, and it is a shame that the design was never actually adopted since, from an aesthetic standpoint, it is far superior to the Liberty Head design that was in use at that time. The design was created and executed by William Barber, Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint in 1872, and features a lovely representation of Liberty on the obverse and a powerful eagle gripping a shield on the reverse. This gold set is referred to as the Amazonian Gold Set because it has the same reverse design that appears on the famous and popular Amazonian silver patterns of 1872. Ironically, the Amazonian nomenclature actually refers to the obverse design of the 1872 silver coins and yet it is only the reverse that is used here, but the Amazonian appellation has been carried over to these gold patterns as well. Only one set of this design was actually struck in gold, a set which I was privileged to purchase as part of the Dr. John Wilkison Collection in 1973, when I was Vice President of Paramount International Coin Corporation. After being owned by several intermediaries since 1973, the unique gold set is now part of the Ed Trompeter Estate Collection.

With the exception of the 1981 ANA sale and the 1954 Farouk sale, no other comparably complete offering of the copper and aluminum Amazonian gold patterns has ever appeared at public auction. All of the copper specimens are extremely rare with only 6-8 pieces known of each denomination, and the aluminum examples are exceedingly rare with only three pieces of each denomination known. Although he did not purchase the set at the Farouk sale, JJP believed that his aluminum set was the one from the Farouk Collection. He also thought it to have previously been in the Col. Green Collection, and, prior to that, in the collection of William H. Woodin who displayed it at the 1914 ANS Exhibit. All of the aluminum pieces are Choice or Gem Proof, and are unusually high quality for aluminum patterns of this period, which often have many problems. This group of eleven aluminum and copper Amazonian gold patterns is perhaps the highlight of John Jay Pittman's pattern collection, and is something of which he was immensely proud, especially the aluminum pieces.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN GOLD \$1 IN COPPER

Judd-1225



796. 1872, Gold Dollar, J-1225, P-1367, Copper, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 16.3 grains. Choice Proof. Sharply struck with a high wire rim and full original mint red color with just a few highlights of gold and violet. There are a number of tiny carbon spots on both sides (more on the obverse than on the reverse), but the coin is free of hairlines or other

impairments. Without the spots, the coin would easily be a Gem. Obtained from the famous Edwin M. Hydeman sale conducted by JJP's good friend, Abe Kosoff, on March 3-5, 1961. The coin appeared as Lot 970 in the sale and realized \$150.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN GOLD \$1 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1226



BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$2-1/2 IN COPPER

Judd-1231



797. 1872, Gold Dollar, J-1226, P-1368, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8. 6.1 grains. Choice Proof. Very sharply struck with a prominent high wire rim that has a few very tiny marks. The surfaces of the coin are of very high quality and are lightly striated on the obverse, heavily striated on the reverse. There are a few very faint hairlines in the fields, but none of the spots, corrosion or other problems that one often associates with aluminum patterns. On the reverse rim below the denomination, there is an area which appears to have been lightly filed. As I stated earlier when describing the 1868 aluminum patterns, it is quite possible that this was done at the Mint immediately after striking. JJP purchased this pattern as Lot 1854 from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale where it realized \$87.50. It is believed that this piece was previously in the Farouk sale and earlier in the collections of Col. E. H. R. Green and William H. Woodin.

798. 1872, Quarter Eagle, J-1231, P-1373, Copper, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 41.2 grains. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. Full original mint red and gold color. Light to moderate toning spots on both sides. Numerous fine die file marks on the face and neck, and light striations in both the obverse and reverse fields. Purchased as Lot 647 for \$425 from RARCOA's 1973 FUN sale in Miami, Florida.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$2 1/2 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1232



799. 1872, Quarter Eagle, J-1232, P-1374, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8. 13.0 grains. Gem Proof. A very lovely specimen that is sharply struck with a high wire rim and light golden toning. There is one tiny spot on the truncation of the neck and another in the field between the shield and RICA. There are also several faint hairlines in

the left obverse field near the chin, but the coin is otherwise superb. Purchased by JJP from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1960, Lot 2462, for \$210. It is believed to previously have been in the collections of King Farouk, Col. E. H. R. Green and William H. Woodin.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$3 IN COPPER

Judd-1236



800. 1872, Three Dollar Gold Piece, J-1236, P-1378, Copper, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 56.1 grains. Very Choice Proof. Medium brown color with considerable mint red around the stars, date, legends and devices. The coin also has attractive medium greenish-gold toning. The

fields have virtually no hairlines or marks, but there are a few tiny spots on both sides. Purchased for \$180 from Empire Coin Co., a firm run by Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Ex. Major Lenox R. Lohr Collection.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$3 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1237



801. 1872, Three Dollar Gold Piece, J-1237, P-1379, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8. 17.2 grains. Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with a high wire rim on both sides and numerous die polishing lines in the fields. Light golden toning and only a few very faint hairlines; there is also a spot near the denticles above the M in AMERICA. There are a couple of tiny marks in the field below AM in AMERICA and below the base of the rock on which the eagle stands. There is the beginning of a tiny planchet lamination near the first star and the tip of the bust. JJP purchased this coin for \$260 as Lot 2464 from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1960.

This coin is thought to have been in the Farouk sale, earlier from the collections of Col. E.H.R. Green and William H. Woodin.

Although all six denominations in the Amazonian gold set have the same design elements, the reverse legends differ markedly in the relative size of the letters. On this Three Dollar piece, the letters appear unusually large; the same size letters appear only slightly less large on the Half Eagle due to the Half Eagle's somewhat greater diameter. The letters on the Eagle are particularly small, those on the Quarter Eagle fairly large, and the letters on the Gold Dollar and Double Eagle appear "normal".



802. 1872, Half Eagle, J-1241, P-1383, Copper, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 77.5 grains. Proof. Cleaned and very heavily lacquered. Verdigris in the milling and around the letters of

the word STATES is unfortunately preserved in the lacquering. Most of the apparent lines in the fields are die striations, and the coin really has very little in the way of hairlines, scratches or marks. However, it clearly has been cleaned and is now a rather unnatural mint red color. Acetone or some other solvent could be used to remove the lacquering, but I will leave that to the discretion of the new owner. Purchased for \$205 from Empire Coin Co. on 8/9/61. Ex. Lenox Lohr Collection. This is the only one of the eleven pieces in this offering of 1872 Amazonian gold patterns that is not a Choice or Gem quality example.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$5 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1242



803. 1872, Half Eagle, J-1242, P-1384, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8. 22.7 grains. Gem Proof, despite a few tiny hairlines in the obverse field and several marks on the very high wire rim. The coin is lustrous with a lightly striated planchet and delicate light golden toning. There is a

tiny pinpoint nick close to the truncation of the neck above and between the 87 in the date. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1860, for \$50. Believed to previously have been in the Farouk sale, earlier still in the Col. E. H. R. Green and William H. Woodin Collections.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$10 IN COPPER

Judd-1246



804. 1872, Eagle, J-1246, P-1388, Copper, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 150.2 grains. Gem Proof. This copper pattern has an absolutely sensational overall appearance due to its fabulous multicolored iridescent toning and brilliant mirror fields. There are a few tiny spots on the face and a few others scattered in the fields, but the coin has no hairlines, scratches, marks or other impairments that have occurred

since striking. Light die striations from die polishing run diagonally on the reverse. The coin is very boldly struck with a partial wire rim and full design details, but it is the gorgeous sunset toning that gives this piece its superb eye appeal. Purchased for \$230 from Empire Coin Co. on 8/9/61. Ex. Lenox Lohr Collection.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$10 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1247



805. 1872, Eagle, J-1247, P-1389, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8. 37.3 grains. Choice Proof. Brilliant mirror fields that show many diagonal die striations which resulted from extensive polishing of the dies. There are some light marks on Liberty's jaw and in the field in front of the face. The coin has light golden toning and a high wire rim. Purchased as Lot 1863 from Abe Kosoff's

1958 ANA sale for \$105. Previously, this coin was apparently in the Farouk Collection and earlier in the collections of Col. E. H. R. Green and William H. Woodin. JJP at one time owned a duplicate of this rarity, having purchased it from Kreisberg-Schulman's 2/60 sale, Lot 2466, for \$170. He later disposed of it in a private transaction with Abe Kosoff.

BARBER'S 1872 AMAZONIAN \$20 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1252



806. 1872, Double Eagle, J-1252, P-1394, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8. 86.2 grains. Very Choice Proof. Sharply struck with a square edge and light diagonal die striations on both the obverse and reverse; very delicate golden toning. There are a few light contact marks and faint hairlines in the fields, but the coin is very close to Gem quality. Purchased by JJP from Empire Coin Co. on

8/9/61 for \$270. It is believed that this piece was formerly in the Farouk Collection, and prior to that, in the collections of such American numismatic luminaries as Col. E.H.R. Green and William H. Woodin.

This Double Eagle pattern concludes a remarkable offering of the off-metal Amazonian gold patterns of 1872, a nearly complete group that likely will not be duplicated in the foreseeable future.



807. 1873, Trade Dollar, J-1293, P-1435, Silver, Reeded Edge. **Rarity-4.** 419.3 grains. **Proof**, nearly in the Choice category, but with just a few too many light hairlines in the mirror fields. Softly struck in the centers as usual, particularly on the eagle's breast. Light to medium golden toning. JJP purchased this coin for \$125 from Abner Kreisberg in 1962. Earlier, it had appeared as Lot 1870 in the 1958 ANA sale conducted by Abe Kosoff where it realized \$48.50 on an estimate of \$65.



808. 1873, Trade Dollar, J-1310, P-1453, Silver, Reeded Edge. **Rarity-4.** 419.4 grains. **Choice Proof**. Very sharply struck with lustrous, deep mirror fields and superb natural reddish-gold toning. There are a few light, widely scattered hairlines, but nothing serious. Numerous raised die scratches throughout the fields, especially prominent on the reverse. Overall, this coin has the look of a much higher grade specimen. Purchased from a James F. Ruddy sale, 7/56, Lot 397, for \$36.



EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1874 BICKFORD \$10 IN ALUMINUM

Judd-1376
One Of Only Two Specimens Known



809. 1874, Eagle, J-1376, P-1521, Aluminum, Reeded Edge. **Rarity-8.** 67.2 grains. **Very Choice Proof**. The Dana Bickford design. Fully struck with a high wire rim on both sides. The fields are highly mirrorlike with a few irregularities of the kind often seen on aluminum pieces. There are some light hairlines on the cheek and in the fields, especially at the date. The surfaces have just a trace of light golden toning. The wire rim is uniform and free of the nicks one usually encounters; this piece is also notable for its lack of corrosion, another common problem with aluminum patterns. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1881, for \$100.

This intriguing and innovative design was proposed by businessman Dana Bickford of New York City. While traveling in Europe he had difficulty exchanging the money of one country for another. Upon his return to the U.S., he suggested the concept of an international coin to Director of the Mint, Henry Linderman, and this design was the result.

This is actually the second of three international coin designs considered by the U.S. Mint. The first was the pattern Half Eagle of 1868, and the last was the well-known Four Dollar gold pieces (or "Stellas") of 1879 and 1880. None of the three design concepts reached actual production, although the Flowing Hair Stellas were produced in significant quantity in 1879. Two examples of the Bickford Eagle were struck in gold, a small number in copper (perhaps 30-35 pieces), a few in nickel (8-12 at most), and several in aluminum. Of the latter, only the following two pieces are known with certainty today.

1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;
1958 ANA: 1881; Elder 11/37: 1007 ("An Important Collector of Chicago, Ill."); Matthew A. Stickney: 572a.
2. Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation; Rarcoa 4/72 (CSNS): 1146; Harry X Boosel; Gschwend Sale (1908).

Contrary to the statements in the two standard pattern references (Judd and Pollock), there was not an aluminum example in the Farouk sale, just copper and nickel pieces.

EXTREMELY RARE 1877 PATTERN \$50 IN COPPER

Judd-1547



810. 1877, Fifty Dollars or "Half Union", J-1547, P-1720, Copper, Reeded Edge. Rarity-7. 758.7 grains. Choice Proof. Very sharply struck with pronounced doubling on all the obverse stars and the entire reverse legend. Mostly mint red, but with some areas of light brown, and also very attractive iridescent blue-green and violet toning. The surfaces are virtually free of any marks, but there are some faint hairlines and tiny pinpoint spots on both sides, and the surfaces are a little lack-luster, possibly from improper storage. There is a small reverse rim bruise to the right of the second A in AMERICA. JJP purchased this copper pattern from Robert Schermerhorn of Dallas, Texas, who was one of the small number of Americans who personally attended the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt, in 1954. This coin is from the Farouk sale where it was offered with two other copper Half Union patterns in the same lot, 2019, which realized the equivalent of \$1,665. (Two of the three \$50 patterns were copper J-1547 pieces, the other a gilt J-1549.) Schermerhorn purchased the lot and later sold this piece to JJP for \$665 on 8/22/54, approximately six months after the Farouk sale. It would appear that the \$665 price was agreed upon in order to leave Schermerhorn with a cost for the two remaining pieces of exactly \$1,000, or \$500 apiece.

This is the extremely rare copper trial strike of one of the most famous of all U.S. gold patterns, the largest denomination pattern ever struck by the United States Mint. In gold, the design is unique (J-1546) and now resides in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, although prior to 1909 it was known to be in private hands, the last owner being William H. Woodin who years later became Secretary of the Treasury under Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Woodin had purchased the coin from Capt. John W. Haseltine and Stephen K. Nagy for a record \$10,000, a colossal price in 1909 when the sale was made. (The unique example of J-1548 was purchased at the same time for an equal amount.) Haseltine and Nagy had acquired both coins from William Idler, who had close Mint connections, and "saved" the coins from being melted, a fate that had been directed by the Superintendent of the Mint, James Pollock. Adverse publicity over his purchase caused Woodin to return the two coins to the Mint Collection, but he was well rewarded with literally hundreds, if not several thousands, of other patterns in exchange, many of which (the two 1874 Bickford Eagles in gold, for example) were previously unknown. It would not be hyperbole to state that the majority of U.S. patterns now in collectors' hands trace their pedigrees to this transaction. The copper trial strikes, J-1547 (offered here) and J-1549, are both extremely rare with only 6-8 examples known of each variety.

811. 1879, Dollar, J-1626, P-1822, Goloid, Reeded Edge. Rarity-3. 216.2 grains. Proof. Cleaned, now with light reddish-gold and violet toning, and a number of faint hairlines in the fields. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 1936, for \$35.



812. 1879, Dollar, J-1617, P-1813, Silver (Metric Alloy), Reeded Edge. Rarity-3. 386.7 grains. Choice Proof. A very attractive specimen with deep mirror fields and mottled reddish-gold toning highlighted with multicolored iridescent shades of greenish-gold, violet and blue. A few light, widely scattered

hairlines are evident under the toning, but this coin has the appearance of a higher grade piece. Purchased from a James Ruddy sale, 7/56, Lot 398, for \$36.



813. 1896, Cent, J-1768, P-1983, Bronze, Plain Edge. Rarity-6. 49.7 grains. Proof, although it looks much more like a Mint State coin than it does a Proof. Medium brown color with a few verdigris spots in the denticles and around some of the letters. A very rare pattern with only 25-30 examples known. JJP paid \$450 for this piece and noted that it, "Catalogs \$1,000"; the date of purchase and seller are unknown.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE 1916 PATTERN HALF DOLLAR

Pollock-2055, Unlisted In Judd



814. 1916, Half Dollar, J-1797 "b" (Not in Judd, Akers' designation), P-2055, Silver, Reeded Edge. Rarity-8, possibly Unique. 190.9 grains. Choice Proof, satin finish. Light golden toning with several tarnish spots on the figure of Liberty. There are some light, widely scattered hairlines, but there is also excellent luster beneath the toning. This coin has the obverse of J-1797 with a large LIBERTY (and especially large T) in the right obverse field as its most obvious characteristic and difference from the regular adopted design. It has the reverse of J-1797a, except that on this coin, the AW monogram (for Adolph Weinman, the designer) appears below the lowest tail feather near the border, i.e. the reverse is identical to the regular issue. This coin was formerly part of Lot 2027 in the Farouk sale. JJP did not purchase it at that sale, but rather acquired it several months later on 5/2/54 from Abe Kosoff for \$77. JJP never displayed or even mentioned this pattern over the years because he felt (and so noted on his coin envelope) that it, "Might not be legal to own." His concern proved to be unfounded, however, and the legality of 1916 Patterns is no longer subject to serious question or debate, as it occasionally was in the 1950's and 1960's.

The pattern Half Dollars of 1916 designed by Adolph Weinman certainly fall into the "rarest of the rare" category. There are seven varieties on the same basic design theme, and they differ in the size and placement of letters, date and devices. Of the seven varieties, six are listed in Judd as numbers 1797, 1797a, 1798, 1799, 1800 and 1801. This is the only one of the seven not so listed. The J-1797 variety is the most "common", and yet only 5 or 6 examples are known. The others, including this J-1797 "b" variety, are all exceedingly rare with only 1-3 specimens of each known. The James Pryor Collection sale had examples of J-1797, J-1798 and J-1799; the Superior 10/90 sale had different examples of J-1797 and J-1798; and the Robert Marks sale in 1972 had specimens of J-1797 and J-1798, the J-1797 being the piece that later appeared in the 10/90 Superior sale. The Bowers and Merena 1995 Rarities sale had a circulated example of J-1800, and the Jimmy Hayes sale in 1985 had an example of J-1801; in addition, there have been a few other auction appearances of 1916 pattern Half Dollars which I have not mentioned here, mostly duplicating specimens already enumerated. However, I cannot find a record of another example of this variety, J-1797b, ever being offered for sale, privately or at public auction. The photo in Pollock is a composite, i.e. not of an actual coin, and so it is possible, even likely, that this Pittman-Farouk specimen is Unique.



815. 1905, Denver Mint Opening, Souvenir Token or Medal, Hibler-Kappen 876. Choice Uncirculated. Mint red and gold with some light multicolored iridescence and a few tiny pinpoint carbon spots. The obverse field has a large and low relief DENVER with 1905 below; the reverse is blank. The medal measures 34.2 mm in diameter (approximately the diameter of a Double Eagle) and weighs 267.0 grains. This piece was struck in 1905 to test the minting machinery at the Denver Mint and, "Was issued as a souvenir at official opening ceremonies of the Mint in early 1906", according to Hibler and Kappen. They further state that, "Despite the statement, 'thousands were struck', the medal was unobtainable at the Mint following the ceremonies and was 'decidedly scarce' in Denver."

816. 1905, Denver Mint Opening, Souvenir Token or Medal, HK-876. Another, this a similar grade of Choice Uncirculated, but more deeply toned. It has some carbon on the obverse and beautiful multicolored iridescent toning.

817. A set of six blank planchets including One Cent, Five Cents, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar and One Dollar; the four largest denominations are silver. The Dime planchet is defective at the edge and the Nickel planchet has some deep scratches. The others are typical of the quality of planchets used for striking regular coinage. The One Dollar planchet was purchased as Lot 468 in the 1958 ANA auction where it realized \$62.50. The four pieces other than the Half Dollar were also obtained at the 1958 ANA sale as Lots 471 (1 Cent and 5 Cents), 474 (Dime), and 476 (Quarter), where they realized \$8, \$13.50, and \$37.50 respectively. The Half Dollar was not added to the "set" until 1962 when JJP purchased it from Stack's Metropolitan New York Convention sale, Lot 2160, for \$57.50. Six pieces.

LOVELY GEM MINT STATE 1915-S PANAMA-PACIFIC HALF DOLLAR



820. 1915-S Panama-Pacific Half Dollar. Gem Uncirculated. A frosty, well struck specimen with superb natural toning, a blend of reddish-gold, violet and deeper blue-green at the border. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few trivial contact marks.

CHOICE 1915-S PAN-PAC \$1 GOLD



821. 1915-S Panama-Pacific Gold Dollar. Choice Uncirculated. A frosty, lustrous specimen with rich yellow-gold color. There is one copper spot at TE of STATES and a small abrasion on the face. The reverse is Gem quality.

822. An original 1915 Panama-Pacific 5 coin box with openings for the Fifty Cent piece, Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle and both the round and octagonal Fifty Dollar gold pieces. JJP purchased this case without any coins in it, along with two other unofficial cases of unknown type, from the Will W. Neil Collection sale in 1947 for \$3.15 as Lot 3304. There are some marks and abrasions on the outside cover, but the inside of the case is very high quality. Prior to the days of "certified" grading, Panama-Pacific boxes such as this were in great demand and often traded at very high prices.

U.S. COMMEMORATIVE COINS

818. 1893 Isabella Quarter. Uncirculated. Frosty and well struck with attractive light to medium reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. A few light hairlines and scattered marks.

819. 1900 Lafayette Dollar. Almost Uncirculated. Cleaned, now with mottled multicolored toning. Moderately hairlined on the obverse, less so on the reverse.

EXTREMELY RARE MATTE PROOF 1934 MARYLAND HALF DOLLAR

One Of Only 3-4 Specimens Known



823. 1934 Maryland Half Dollar. Proof, matte or sandblast finish. Medium gray and gold color; very little, if any, luster due to the type of surface finish. The coin has very few marks and only a few light hairlines.

This piece was formerly in the estate of John R. Sinnock who was the Chief Engraver at the Philadelphia Mint when the Maryland Half Dollar was designed and struck. The exact number of Proofs minted is unknown, but it is believed that only four specimens are known today, all of which can be traced to the Sinnock estate. Two examples were in the 1962 ANA sale and this piece was believed by JJP to have been one of them, although he did not purchase it there, but rather obtained it nearly two years later from William Behringer (a.k.a. "Buffalo Bill") of Buffalo, New York, on 2/3/64 for \$120.

824. A pair of 1925 Norse-American Centennial Medals struck in silver; one is the thin planchet variety, the other thick. Both pieces are Uncirculated with full mint luster and attractive natural toning. Of the two varieties, the thin planchet is far more rare than the thick planchet. The mintage of the thin planchet medals was only 6,000 pieces compared to 33,750 of the thick. Two pieces.

VERY RARE MATTE PROOF 1925 NORSE-AMERICAN GOLD MEDAL



825. 1925 Norse-American Centennial Medal. Struck in gold. Gem Proof, matte or sandblast finish. Rich greenish-gold color. One tiny spot in the right obverse field halfway between the shield and the rim, and one tiny nick on the edge above and to the right of the E in THE on the reverse. Extremely choice for a Norse-American gold medal, many of which come with hairlines and highlights, as do the Matte Proof gold coins of 1908 to 1915 to which they are similar in finish. On JJP's envelope holding this medal, he first wrote, "Worth \$500", then crossed it out and wrote, "More now", a pithy observation that will certainly prove to be true when this lot sells. Obtained by JJP on 3/10/50 from William T. Bartholomew of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a former coiner at the U.S. Mint in the 1920's when this medal was struck.

In early 1925, Congress authorized the official Mint production of a maximum of 40,000 octagonal medals to commemorate the Norse-American Centennial celebration of the arrival on October 9, 1825, of the first group of Norse immigrants to America. The celebration of this event was scheduled to take place on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds from June 6-9, 1925. In late May and early June, the silver medals (see previous lot) were minted at the Philadelphia Mint in the manner of ordinary business strikes. In addition to the 39,750 silver medals, 100 gold medals were struck with a Matte Proof finish; 53 of them were not sold and later melted, leaving a net mintage of only 47 pieces.

COINS OF HAWAII



826. 1847, One Cent, Uncirculated. Crosslet 4, 15 berries in wreath. Full mint red color with a trace of greenish-gold toning on the right reverse. Moderate to heavy spotting on both sides. There are also some very light contact marks and abrasions in the fields. Highly desirable due to its full original mint red color and outstanding luster. Purchased from a 9/44 Wayte Raymond sale, Lot 739, for \$1.25.

VERY RARE PROOF 1883 HAWAII DIME



827. 1883, One Dime, Choice Proof. Lightly lacquered, light golden toning. Some faint hairlines in the fields as well as a few tiny lint marks. Very sharply struck with razor sharp details and a partial wire rim. Very rare, one of only 26 Proofs struck at the Philadelphia Mint. (The regular business strikes were minted in San Francisco.) Purchased from James Kelly's 1949 CSNS sale as Lot 1243. Included in this lot were the Proof Quarter Dollar and Half Dollar offered here as Lots 829 and 830, as well as this Dime. The entire lot was purchased by JJP for \$11.

VERY RARE PROOF 1883 HAWAII PATTERN EIGHTH DOLLAR



828. 1883, Eighth Dollar, Choice Proof. Lightly lacquered. Light gray and gold toning, and some very faint hairlines throughout the fields. There are also a few tiny contact marks as well as several minute lint marks in the fields.

The Eighth Dollar denomination is a pattern and was never used

for actual coinage production since a decision was ultimately made to produce a Dime in order to conform to U.S. denominations and standards. This pattern was designed by Chief Engraver Charles Barber (as were all the Hawaiian coins of 1883), and only 20 examples were struck, all in Proof. Today, only an estimated 10-15 pieces are known.

VERY RARE PROOF
1883 HAWAII QUARTER DOLLAR

829. 1883, Quarter Dollar, Proof. Lightly lacquered. Light golden toning; only faint hairlines on the reverse, but moderately heavy ones on the obverse. There is also a noticeable abrasion on the King's nose and two nicks in the field between the nose and AW of HAWAII. Very rare, only 26 Proofs were minted of this issue. Purchased as part of Lot 1243 in James Kelly's 1949 CSNS sale.

**VERY RARE PROOF
1883 HAWAII HALF DOLLAR**



830. 1883, Half Dollar, Proof. Cleaned, possibly to remove lacquering, now moderately hairlined throughout the fields. Most of the original mirror surface still remains, but the coin is a little on the dull side with light golden toning. Very rare, only 26 Proofs were minted of this denomination. JJP purchased the Dime, Quarter Dollar and Half Dollar as a group for \$11 from James Kelly's 1949 CSNS sale, Lot 1243.

831. 1883, One Dollar, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State. Sharply struck with full prooflike surfaces and superb medium multicolored toning, a blend of reddish-gold, violet and blue. The fields are quite clean, but there are a few bag marks on the King's face and in the field by the forehead between KING and OF in the legend. A very scarce coin in this high grade.

END OF SESSION TWO

COLOR PLATE 13



COLOR PLATE 14



572



601



615



772



572

601

615

772



810



810



1901



1843

832 g.



1843

832 i.



1843

832 j.



1843



ONE DOL.

170



1844



833 j.



1844

833 h.



1844

833 i.

COLOR PLATE 15



834 j.



834 m.



835 f.



835 c.

3
DOLLARS
1859

863

3
DOLLARS
1886

864

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1 DOLLAR
1854

866



872



872



911



1833



1838



1838



1840



1842



933



937



938



949



955



985



1022



COLOR PLATE 16



1102



1106



1162



1164



1167



1205



1260



172

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part One

Session Three

Lots 832-1264

Thursday, October 23, 1997
6:00 P.M. Sharp

U.S. PROOF SETS

The following six lots consist of original Proof Sets from the John Jay Pittman Collection. While original Proof sets from the 19th Century are very rare, they are not entirely unprecedented in the annals of numismatic auctions. However, the John Jay Pittman Collection is unique in that it contains four Proof sets from the 1840's which include all the gold denominations, each set in its original burgundy Morocco leather covered wood case of issue. There have been only two other comparable Proof sets from this early era offered for sale at auction in this century. One, of course, is the renowned King of Siam Proof set that contains the 1804 Dollar. It was first offered in a Bowers and Merena sale in 1987, but did not sell. Three years later, it appeared in Superior's May 1990 sale as Lot 3364, and sold for \$3,190,000. The other is an original 1843 Proof set that was first seen in the Fernand David sale held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 1930. It later appeared in the Will W. Neil Collection sale conducted by B. Max Mehl in 1947. Mehl had purchased the set from the Fernand David sale through an agent. He sold it first to Mr. Frank Stoddard of Pasadena, California, repurchased it, sold it to Col. E.H.R. Green, reacquired it when Green died in 1936, and then sold it to Mr. Neil. At the Neil Collection sale, it was purchased by Amon Carter, Sr. and remained in the Carter family's collection until it was sold in 1984 by the New York numismatic firm of Stack's. That set was correctly touted as being "one of the great numismatic highlights", but now we have the unprecedented, and likely never to be repeated, opportunity of having four such sets in one collection. Two of them, the 1843 and 1844 sets, are offered here; the 1845 and 1846 sets will be sold in the John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part Two, in May 1998.

In addition to the cased sets, this sale also contains a complete 1859 Proof set, including all of the gold denominations through the Double Eagle, offered as a single lot. Never has such a complete 1859 Proof set been offered at public auction as a single lot, at least not in this century, although on a few rare occasions, 1859 Proof sets without gold have been offered intact, and the individual gold coins offered separately. Also of great importance is an original 1886 gold Proof set which John Jay Pittman purchased in 1949 from the New Netherlands 28th sale. Even at that sale, the coins were offered individually rather than as a set, but clearly the set is an original one, the six pieces kept together since the year of issue. Although a few other 1886 gold Proof sets have been offered at auction in the past 75 years, none of them has been offered as a complete set, but rather the sets have been broken up and offered as individual pieces (cf. Garrett, 1976).

So now numismatic history is about to be made with the offering of several of the most famous and important items in the Pittman Collection, items that have been displayed and talked about for decades, and are finally being made available to collectors after residing in the same great collection for nearly a half century.

1843 PROOF SET IN ORIGINAL CASE OF ISSUE

Complete From Half Cent Through Eagle



1843 PROOF SET IN ORIGINAL CASE OF ISSUE



832. **1843 Proof Set** in the original burgundy Morocco leather covered wood case of issue. The inside lining is blue velvet and there are seven white linen lined openings in the bottom of the case for the Half Cent through One Dollar; the three gold coins have openings in the lid. The set consists of ten coins including the Half Cent, Large Cent, Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar, One Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle and Eagle. The non-gold coins of this set, Half Cent through One Dollar, together with the original case, were purchased from Judge Joseph F. Sawicki on 5/10/48 for \$225. The gold coins were all purchased individually at the "Memorable" sale in March 1948. (It is interesting to note that the original 1843 copper and silver Proof set became available to JJP just two months after the "Memorable" sale. The 1844 copper-silver Proof coins, also in an original case, were purchased just one month after the sale, from which JJP had also acquired the three 1844 gold Proofs. Did he know about the original 1843 and 1844 copper-silver Proof sets when he purchased the gold

Proofs? Probably, but I cannot be certain.) The 1843 gold Proof set is itself an original set, although it may or may not have initially belonged with this set of copper and silver coins. The gold set, claimed to be from the William H. Woodin Collection, was sold by John Zug to Fred Boyd in 1939, and then was auctioned in 1946 with Boyd's collection which was billed by Numismatic Gallery as "World's Greatest Collection". All three coins were purchased at "W.G.C." by Jake Shapiro (a.k.a. J.F. Bell), the owner of the so-called "Memorable" Collection. If this Pittman set is a complete original set, i.e. the gold, silver and copper coins contained herein were issued together, as seems likely, then this set may be Winsor (1895): 1067, a complete 1843 Proof set with gold in original case which was said to have been, "Presented by President (John) Tyler". If it is not this set, then the Winsor-Tyler set is probably the same set as the Carter-Neil-David set. The individual copper, silver and gold coins in the 1843 Proof set are graded and described as follows.

a. **1843 Half Cent, Original, Large Berries on Reverse.** Breen-1a, Gilbert-1. 81.9 grains. Rarity-6. Choice Proof. Mostly medium brown color with faded mint red in and around some of the letters and design devices. The surfaces of the coin are slightly dull from residing the past century and a half in this original case, and although the coin does not have anything in the way of hairlines or scratches, there are a few minor carbon spots as well as some cloudiness to the fields. There is very pronounced doubling on the reverse, especially noticeable on several of the berries and on the word AMERICA in the legend. The 8 in the date is repunched with the original numeral showing below the bottom of the correctly punched numeral. Struck only in Proof; an estimated 20-25 still exist.

b. **1843 Large Cent. Type of 1842. Newcomb-14. High Rarity-6. Very Choice Proof.** Considerable original mint red, now fading to brown in places, and beautiful multicolored iridescent toning over most of the surface. Prominent lint mark in the field behind the head, halfway between the neck and the 11th star. There is also a tiny planchet depression, "as made", in front of the truncation of the neck. There are no hairlines or marks, but the coin has a few pinpoint carbon spots as well as a spot below the 13th star and another at the top of the 4 of the date. This is a beautiful coin with deep mirror fields and superb toning. It is a Proof-only variety, one of just 15-18 pieces known, according to Large Cent expert Denis Loring.

c. **1843 Half Dime. Choice Proof.** Triple punched date, all three iterations of each of the numerals clearly visible. The coin is fully struck with deep mirror fields and beautiful steel blue and gold toning. Some faint hairlines are noticeable in the fields, but no serious marks or impairments. This is a Proof-only variety, and it is almost certainly the case that all Proof 1843 Half Dimes are this variety. Only 6-8 Proofs are known, including two in the Pittman Collection.

d. **1843 Dime. Choice Proof or better.** Very similar in appearance to the Half Dime, but perhaps just a little flashier and higher quality. The coin is fully struck with a partial wire rim, and it has beautiful blue and gold toning with just a few hints of russet. There is a tiny triangular die lump on the rim between the 1st and 2nd stars, present on all Proof 1843 Dimes, and only the Proofs. The reverse fields are deeply mirrorlike and very choice; the obverse, however, does have a few light, scattered hairlines, although none are worth special mention. A little less rare in Proof than the Half Dime, Quarter or Half Dollar, with perhaps 8-10 Proofs known, including two in the Pittman Collection.

e. **1843 Quarter. Proof,** just short of the Choice category due to some light hairlines in the obverse field. The reverse is Very Choice with no more than a few faint, widely scattered hairlines. The coin is very sharply struck with deep mirror fields, a partial wire rim, and similar toning to the preceding two coins, namely beautiful blue and gold colors with russet highlights. This variety was undoubtedly struck only in Proof, just like all the denominations in the set. Extremely rare in Proof with only an estimated 6-8 specimens known, including two in the Pittman Collection.

f. **1843 Half Dollar. Choice Proof.** Higher quality than the Quarter, about on a par with the Half Dime and Dime, and very similar to them in overall appearance. (In fact, all of the silver coins in this set have virtually the same color and look which is hardly surprising since this is an original set and all the coins have been stored in the same case for more than 150 years.) This piece is very sharply struck with a high wire rim and deep mirror fields. It has two edge nicks, including one on the obverse rim above the 11th star and another above the D in UNITED. The color is basically iridescent blue and gold with considerable russet toning mixed with violet, more vivid shades on the reverse than on the obverse. There is a die break that literally bisects the reverse and runs from the rim between E and S of STATES, through the eagle's head, down through the body of the eagle to the top left serif of the F in HALF, and slightly beyond. This crack is characteristic of Proof 1843 Half Dollars, i.e. all such Proofs were struck using this cracked reverse die. Furthermore, this is a Proof-only variety. This denomination is comparable in rarity to the other silver Proofs of 1843; only 6-8 examples are known, including two in the Pittman Collection.

g. **1843 One Dollar. Very Choice Proof.** Surprisingly, this is the highest quality silver coin in the set. It has deep mirror fields with just a few widely scattered and faint hairlines, and it has absolutely superb toning, a rich blend of russet, violet, green and electric blue. There is one very tiny edge nick on the obverse rim directly above Liberty's head, but the fields and devices of the coin are extremely clean, although there is one small mark to the right of the 9th star. There are also several tiny lint marks, including one in the field in front of the 11th star and another between the 12th and 13th stars. This coin shows the defects on the right leg of the final A in AMERICA as well as on the inside of the right leg at the crossbar. These defects are characteristic of all Proof Silver Dollars struck from 1840 to 1850, and this die was never used for business strikes. Of the relatively few known Proof 1843 Dollars, this specimen surely ranks at or near the very top. I think that most numismatists will be quite impressed with its appearance.

*Q. David Bowers, in his excellent reference work, *Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars Of The United States*, estimates that 15-25 Proof 1843 Silver Dollars were struck, and further estimates a surviving population of only 5-9 coins, a figure that seems about right, especially at the high end of that estimate. (I have personally seen six different specimens and I have to assume there are at least a few more.) It seems as though the smaller silver coins were struck only for inclusion in the copper-silver Proof sets (perhaps 10-15 sets struck) with additional small quantities of Proof Half Cents, Cents and Dollars also minted.*

h. **1843 Quarter Eagle. Gem Proof.** Fully struck with deep mirror fields, a partial wire rim, and extraordinary rich yellow gold color. Large numerals in date, placed low in the field, with the 1 firmly touching a denticle. A die scratch runs under the 4th star. There are a few very faint hairlines in the fields, but not enough to remove this coin from the Gem category. The face, in particular, is very clean with no marks or hairlines at all. The few hairlines that this coin does have are largely restricted to some faint ones just above Liberty's head. There are several tiny lint marks on the coin including one above the eagle's left wing. Another lint mark is in the field between the 2nd star and the face; yet another runs from the top of the 6th star toward a

denticle. Purchased by JJP as Lot 103 from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the "Memorable" Collection, 3/48, for \$140. Earlier from F.C.C. Boyd ("World's Greatest Collection", Lot 110), John Zug, and William H. Woodin (Lot 966 in Thomas Elder's 1911 sale). Probably owned by Waldo Newcomer and Col. E.H.R. Green in the intervening years between Woodin and Zug, who apparently acquired the set from the Green estate after Green's death in 1936.

Although I cannot say for sure, I will venture to state that only four or five of the 10-15 1843 Proof sets struck included gold coins. The four known Quarter Eagles are as follows.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*
"Memorable": 103; "World's Greatest Collection" (Boyd): 110;
John Zug; Col. E.H.R. Green (?); Waldo Newcomer (?);
William H. Woodin: 966.
3. Amon Carter: 630; Will W. Neil: 2292; Fernand David.
Part of a complete original cased set.
4. Jerome Kern: 32.

i. **1843 Half Eagle. Gem Proof.** This coin is absolutely extraordinary, the finest quality coin in the entire set, and even a bit nicer than the magnificent Quarter Eagle just described and the Dollar. It is likely that this is the finest known Proof Half Eagle of the 1840's, slightly superior to the 1845 in Auction '84 that later certified Proof-65. This magnificent Proof 1843 Half Eagle has a superb strike, deep mirror fields that have no more than a few faint and almost totally insignificant hairlines, and the most spectacular deep original yellow gold color imaginable. There are some light copper toning spots on the obverse (not carbon) and one slightly larger area of reddish-copper and iridescent blue-violet color on the reverse border below FI of FIVE. The date is level and centered between the bust and the denticles. There are raised die scratches from die polishing that are evident in the reverse field, particularly noticeable at IC of AMERICA, and running from a denticle under the F in FIVE to the lowermost leaf on the left side. There is a small lint mark in the field by the eagle's right claws and the lowest arrowhead. This coin is, in my opinion, the premier item of all of the coins in the Proof sets of the 1840's in the John Jay Pittman Collection. Purchased at the 1948 "Memorable" sale (Numismatic Gallery, 3/48) as Lot 343 for \$135, which was actually \$5 less than the amount paid for the Proof 1843 Quarter Eagle. Earlier it had been in "World's Greatest Collection" (F.C.C. Boyd), Lot 394, and earlier still was owned by John Zug, a Bowie, Maryland, dealer who told JJP the coin came from the Woodin Collection. (It was displayed at the 1914 ANS Exhibit.) Although not certain, it was likely owned by Waldo Newcomer and Col. E.H.R. Green prior to coming into the possession of Zug in the late 1930's after Green's death.

It is my opinion that of the estimated 10-15 Proof sets minted in 1843, only four or five contained gold coins. The only three Proof 1843 Half Eagles now traced are listed below. The Smithsonian Institution reportedly has an 1843 Proof set that is missing the Half Eagle, so that is likely the original source of a possible fourth specimen.

1. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*
"Memorable": 343; "World's Greatest Collection": 394;
John Zug; Col. E.H.R. Green (?); Waldo Newcomer (?);
William H. Woodin (1914 ANS Exhibit).
2. Amon Carter: 630; Will W. Neil: 2292; Fernand David.
Part of a complete original cased set.
3. Farouk: 250; Col. E.H.R. Green.

An 1843 Half Eagle certified as Proof 65 was seen at the 1997 ANA Convention. This coin is probably No. 3. If not, it would be the fourth specimen.

j. **1843 Eagle. Proof,** falling just short of the Choice category. The coin is fully struck with intense luster and full original Proof brilliance and bright yellow gold color. There are some light hairlines in the fields as well as a flurry of more concentrated and intense hairlines in the field in front of the face and on Liberty's chin and jaw. There is a noticeable lint mark in the right obverse field below and to the right of the lowest curl of the hair bun, approximately one third of the way toward the 12th star. Obviously, this piece is not of the same quality as the gorgeous Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle, but it is still very nice and much more appealing than this detailed but necessary description makes it sound. This coin was purchased at the famous "Memorable" sale in 1948 as Lot 546 for \$190. Previously it had been in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale in 1946, Lot 648. It was sold to F.C.C. Boyd in 1939 by John Zug as part of this original gold Proof set. Earlier provenance (per Zug) was the William H. Woodin Collection, Lot 1207, but it probably also passed through the collections of Waldo Newcomer and Col. E.H.R. Green after the 1911 Woodin sale.

In my opinion, only four or five of the 10-15 Proof sets struck in 1843 contained gold coins. Today, four Proof Eagles can be accounted for as follows.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*
"Memorable": 546; "World's Greatest Collection"
(F.C.C. Boyd): 648; John Zug; Col. E.H.R. Green (?);
Waldo Newcomer (?); William H. Woodin: 1207.
3. Amon Carter: 630; Will W. Neil: 2292; Fernand David.
Part of a complete original cased set.
4. Superior 6/78: 1961; Kreisberg-Schulman 3/65: 157; J.F. Bell: 608;
Virgil Brand.

I have one final comment on this 1843 Proof set; actually it is more of a question. The Carter-Neil-David set and the John Jay Pittman set are both represented as being original sets in their original cases of issue. Why are the cases different? In the Carter case, all 10 coins fit in the bottom of the shell; in this set (and JJP's sets of 1844, 1845 and 1846), they are arranged with the gold coins in the top of the case and the non-gold coins in the bottom. This is very curious; one would think there would have been only one style of case made for such a few sets issued. Compounding the mystery is the fact that in the cases for JJP's 1843 and 1844 sets, the gold coins are configured differently in the lid. The 1843 set case has the \$10 in the middle; the 1844 set case has the \$10 on the right. (The cases for the 1845 and 1846 Proof sets which will be sold in the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, in May 1998, are the same as the 1843 set, i.e. they have the \$10 in the middle.) Perhaps the reason for the difference in the cases is the most simple and obvious one. The cases were made up individually, by hand, at different times, possibly even by different individuals, and so each case is unique.

The cases for all four cased sets in the John Jay Pittman Collection (1843, 1844, 1845 and 1846) have exactly the same dimensions, namely 129mm by 87mm. The case for the Carter-Neil-David 1843 set measures 5 inches by 4-1/2 inches according to the Carter auction catalogue prepared by Stack's. This means the Carter set case has basically the same width as the Pittman Collection cases, but slightly more depth (approximately 28mm more) to accommodate the three gold coins in a third row in the bottom of the case.

1844 PROOF SET IN ORIGINAL CASE OF ISSUE

Contains Half Cent Through Eagle and Original Price List



1844 PROOF SET IN ORIGINAL CASE OF ISSUE



833. **1844 Proof Set** consisting of ten coins from Half Cent to Eagle, including Half Cent, Large Cent, Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar, One Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle and Eagle. These coins are in the original burgundy Morocco leather covered wood case of issue with blue velvet interior, seven openings in the bottom shell, and three openings for the gold coins in the upper lid. In addition to the case, this remarkable set comes with the original price list as printed by Manly & Orr of 45 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To the best of my knowledge, this is the only known original price list of this era. None of the other cased sets in the Pittman Collection still has the original price list, nor did the Carter-Neil-David set. Walter Breen's reference to that set having an original list was the result of confusion on his part. He was really referring to the price list offered here with this lot. The confusion arose when Breen pedigreed the 1843 Carter-Neil-David set to the collection of John Jay Pittman, but this was an error. The Carter set and JJP's 1843 set are two different sets. Breen had seen JJP's 1843 set on exhibit, and JJP often displayed this price list with it. However, this price list did not actually belong with the 1843 set, but rather with this 1844 set. When JJP displayed any of his four cased sets, however, he typically showed the price list as well, because he felt it was a logical and reasonable assumption that the same price list would have originally been with each of the sets.

To set the matter straight once and for all, there is only one Manly & Orr price list, and JJP assured me that it belongs with this 1844 set.

The non-gold coins in this 1844 set were purchased by JJP as an original Proof set in the original case (with price list) from Abe Kosoff of Numismatic Gallery on 4/5/48 for \$400. (Almost certainly this is the set formerly owned by Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, a good friend of both JJP and Abe Kosoff. However, at no time did Dr. Judd own the three gold coins as indicated by Walter Breen. JJP purchased the gold coins separately and added them to the set himself.) This purchase of the copper-silver Proof set occurred just one month after all three Proof gold coins had been purchased separately from the "Memorable" sale. Since the 1844 Proof gold coins are exceedingly rare, with only the coins in this set known outside the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, and since this is the only intact copper-silver 1844 Proof set known, JJP felt that the gold coins must have originally belonged with this particular set of silver coins. Of course, it is not possible to be absolutely certain of this, but it is a plausible, even reasonable, assumption. It is likely that only 10-15 Proof sets were issued in 1844 with only three or four of them containing the gold coins. Following is a coin by coin description of each of the ten coins in this remarkable Proof set.

This is the original price list included with the 1844 Proof set. It measures 180mm by 104mm and was printed by Manly & Orr, 45 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The list shows the total face value of the coins as \$19.41 1/2, to which was added the cost of the case, \$3.08 1/2, for a total price of \$22.50 for the set.

COMPLETE SERIES OF COINS OF THE United States of America						
Viz.	Eagle,	quality .900 weight 258 grains, value				\$19.00
Half Eagle,	do.	do. do. 129 do. do.				5.00
Quarter Eagle,	do.	do. do. 64½ do. do.				2.50
Dollar,	do.	do. do. 41½ do. do.				1.00
Half Dollar,	do.	do. do. 20½ do. do.				0.50
Quarter Dollar,	do.	do. do. 10½ do. do.				0.25
Dime,	do.	do. do. 4½ do. do.				0.10
Half Dime,	do.	do. do. 2½ do. do.				0.05
Cent,		do. do. 1½ do. do.				0.01
Half Cent,		do. do. 84 do. do.				0.00½
Case,						\$19.41½
						3.08½
						\$22.50

Manly & Orr, Printers, 45 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

- a. **1844 Half Cent, Original, Large Berries on Reverse. Breen-1, Gilbert-1. 82.5 grains. Rarity-6. Gem Proof.** Sharply struck with a square edge, partial wire rim, and deep mirror fields. The coin is mostly brown, but still has considerable mint red, especially on the obverse. It also has beautiful light multicolored iridescent toning. There are a few tiny obverse spots, but not enough to remove the coin from the Gem category. The reverse is very, very nice and has virtually no spots whatsoever other than one tiny verdigris spot on the I of UNITED. The surfaces of the coin have a slight haze from having spent so many years in the velvet lined case. Very rare, a little more so than the 1843; only 18-22 are estimated to exist.
- b. **1844 Large Cent. Newcomb-8. High Rarity-6. Gem Proof.** Deep mirror fields that are enhanced with absolutely glorious multicolored toning. On the obverse, it is a cool iridescent blend of blue, greenish-gold and faded mint red. On the reverse, the shades are slightly brighter with considerable violet, blue, greenish-gold and faded mint red and brown. There is a lint mark above the hair between the 7th and 8th stars and another small lint mark in the area between the 4th and 5th stars. There are also a few pinpoint carbon spots in the obverse fields as well as one larger one near the 1st star, and some light cloudiness from the coin having been stored for a century and a half in the case. From the standpoint of marks or hairlines, however, the surfaces of the coin are nearly pristine, and this surely ranks as one of the prettiest Proof Large Cents of the 1840's. According to Large Cent specialist Denis Loring, this is a Proof-only variety with just 12-15 examples estimated to exist.
- c. **1844 Half Dime. Very Choice Proof.** A gorgeous, sharply struck specimen with full mirror fields and beautiful blue and reddish-gold toning. The fields are very clean and have only a few faint hairlines, although there is one scratch near the wreath to the right of the last A in AMERICA. There is also a tiny depression in the planchet, "as made", below the left foot of the I in DIME. In the date, the 8 and 4 are connected (the lower loop of the 8 to the horizontal of the 4), and the date slants down to the right. There is faint repunching on the first 4. The obverse has a number of light die polishing lines, most noticeable near the border around the stars. Without the faint scratch on the reverse, this coin would easily be a Gem. In Proof, this issue is a great rarity; only 6-8 Proofs are known to exist.
- d. **1844 Dime. Very Choice Proof, possibly even a Gem.** Very sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a high wire rim. Beautiful toning, a blend of blue, violet, gold and russet. There are only a few very faint hairlines and they are widely scattered and almost entirely concealed by the toning. There is an unfinished area from the base below Liberty's foot to the rim and there are also two raised scratches or parallel die file marks running diagonally from the left corner of the base (below the rock) to a denticle below. Another die scratch runs from the left foot of the 1 toward the base, and there are a number of other die scratches near the stars. Also, there is a short spike from a denticle into the field between the 9th and 10th stars and several other smaller ones at the denticles near the 10th star. On the reverse, there is a lint mark in the field below the right foot of the E in STATES. There is only this one variety of 1844 Dime; the date slants up slightly to the right, 1 and last 4 close to the denticles, last 4 tipped slightly left. Of comparable rarity to the Half Dime, but substantially more popular. Only 6-8 Proofs are known.
- e. **1844 Quarter. Very Choice Proof,** with the obverse reaching full Gem status. The reverse, however, has just a few very light hairlines above the eagle's head. The coin has beautiful natural toning with various iridescent colors including russet, blue, violet and reddish-gold. The toning is deeper, more uniform, on the obverse than on the reverse. The date is centered and level and shows distinct repunching at 844. There are a number of fine die scratches in the fields and there are also a number of very tiny spikes from the denticles into the field by the 11th, 12th and 13th stars. Overall, the coin has an excellent appearance and it is likely that many people will grade this coin a full Gem; it is even more attractive than the Half Dime and the Dime.

This is the rarest silver denomination of the year in Proof with possibly only three examples known; other than the one reportedly in the Smithsonian Institution and the example in the Matthew Stickney original Proof set (Lot 1788 in the 1907 auction of his collection), I have not seen or heard of another. Breen's two other Proofs mentioned in his Encyclopedia are J.H. South: 507 and Lester Merkin 6/71: 717, the latter catalogued by Breen himself, but not really a Proof. If the South coin was a legitimate Proof, then there are four known and, of course, it is always possible others exist. Still, this is one of the greatest rarities among all Liberty Seated Proof coins, comparable to the 1841 Dime and the 1840 and 1841 Quarters. Note: For nearly all years in the 1840's, the Quarter is the rarest silver denomination in Proof, even though, except for the Silver Dollar, the denominations apparently were minted in equal quantities for inclusion in the annual Proof Sets. Why are the Quarters typically more rare than the other denominations?

f. **1844 Half Dollar. Choice Proof.** The obverse has beautiful, but somewhat mottled multicolored toning, a blend of medium reddish-gold in the center turning to blue, violet and gold near the periphery. The reverse is a lighter, more uniform reddish-gold color with just a hint of blue at the border. There are some light hairlines in the fields under the toning and there is one fine hairline from the top of Liberty's left shoulder to the 7th star. There are several horizontal die file marks running from denticles into the field under the base below Liberty's foot. The strike is very sharp and the fields are brilliant and mirrorlike. This coin is slightly lower in overall quality than any of the preceding, but it is still very attractive due to the lovely multicolored toning.

The Half Dollar is not quite as rare as the Quarter, but it is nevertheless of exceptional rarity. At most 5 or 6 Proofs are known, none in any of the great "name" sales of the past quarter century other than Robison: 1622, which earlier appeared in Stack's 2/27/74 sale, Lot 1437. Another catalogued as Proof was sold in Stack's 9/93 sale, Lot 358, but I did not see the coin. No Proof 1844 Half Dollar or Quarter has been certified as of June 1997; these are the only two Proof silver coins of the 1840's that have not been graded by one of the grading services.

g. **1844 One Dollar. Choice Proof.** Virtually identical in overall appearance and condition to the Half Dollar, and just a little short of the quality of the three lowest denomination silver coins. (Quality considerations aside, all five of the silver coins in this original set are very similar in overall appearance and color. Even the quality differences are really quite minor.) This specimen is fully struck with a wire rim and deep mirror fields. The toning is very attractive with shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue and pale gold. Like the Half Dollar just described, this coin has deeper, more iridescent and colorful shades on the obverse, while the reverse is basically a pale reddish-gold color. There are some light hairlines in the fields, including a horizontal one running below the 18 of the date, but they are largely concealed by the toning. There is also one tiny contact mark in the field above the eagle's left wing. This Proof Dollar shows the defects on the outside of the right leg of the second A of AMERICA and on the inside of the right leg at the crossbar. These are characteristic of all Proof Silver Dollars struck from 1840 to 1850 and they do not appear on any of the business strikes. Very rare, although easily the most "common" silver Proof coin of the year. Q. David Bowers in his Silver Dollar Encyclopedia estimates an original mintage of 20-30 pieces and an extant population of 7-14 pieces. I would place the number at the high end of that range, possibly 10-12.

h. **1844 Quarter Eagle. Choice Proof** or better, with the reverse somewhat higher grade than the obverse, although both sides have a few light hairlines in the deep mirror fields. The coin is very sharply struck and has absolutely superb rich yellow gold color. The date is large and placed high in the field; the 1 in the date solidly touches the bust along most of its width, but the numerals 844 are well away from the bust. This is a very flashy coin with a great overall look. It is not quite as nice as the Gem Quarter Eagle in the 1843 set but, of the relatively few known Proof Quarter Eagles of this decade, this is certainly among the better ones. It is important to note that most of the relatively few hairlines on this coin are confined to the fields, and the all-important face is very clean. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's 1948 "Memorable" sale as Lot 104 for \$140. Previously it had been in the same firm's "World's Greatest Collection" sale in 1946 where it was purchased as Lot 111 by J.F. Bell. Any earlier provenance is uncertain; there are no other auction records for this date that I can find. Exceedingly rare, the lone specimen in private hands; the only other known example is in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution.

i. **1844 Half Eagle. Choice Proof.** A brilliant, fully struck specimen with rich yellow gold color that has just a hint of a copper hue. There is one long hairline in the field running from the back of the eagle's neck toward the area between OF and the right wing tip. This is the only hairline that is worth special mention; the others present are all very light and of minor importance. The date is high in the field and placed well to the left with the left tip of the top serif of the 1 directly under the point of the bust. On the reverse, there are noticeable die scratches or file marks in the left field along the eagle's leg feathers and the first three vertical wing feathers closest to the body. This is undoubtedly a Proof-only variety, and the same reverse die was used to strike the Proof Half Eagles of 1845, 1846 and 1848, all of which are in the Pittman Collection. (The 1843, however, was struck from a different reverse die.) Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery's 1948 "Memorable" sale of the J.F. Bell collection. This coin was Lot 345 and realized \$140. Bell had purchased it from the "World's Greatest Collection" sale in 1946 as Lot 395. Any earlier provenance is uncertain since I can find no other record of a Proof 1844 Half Eagle being sold at public auction. This is one of only two Proof 1844 Half Eagles known, the other in the Smithsonian Institution.

j. **1844 Eagle. Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. There are a number of dense and bright hairlines on Liberty's chin and cheek and some lighter ones in the field in front of the face. There is also a fine scratch in the reverse field that runs above the top arrowhead to the area between E and R of AMERICA. The coin is very sharply struck with brilliant mirror fields and beautiful bright yellow gold color. There are several horizontal die scratches or file marks from the denticles near the 13th star, including one that runs all the way to the star and touches two of the star points. There are also several tiny spikes from the leading edge of the truncation of the bust and neck that run into the field, as well as some other tiny spikes from the denticles barely into the field near the 1st and 2nd stars. The date is fairly level and just slightly short of half the distance from the denticles to the bust. JJP purchased this great coin at the 1948 "Memorable" sale as Lot 547 for \$210. J.F. Bell, the owner of the "Memorable" Collection, had purchased the coin from "World's Greatest Collection" (F.C.C. Boyd) in 1946 as Lot 649. Any earlier provenance is unknown since I have never been able to locate any other auction appearance of a Proof 1844 Eagle. This is the only specimen in private hands and one of just two Proofs known, the other in the Smithsonian Institution.

The Mint seems to have had a hard time deciding on which style of 4 to use on the coins of 1843 and 1844 as well as those of 1845 and 1846. The Cents, Half Dimes, Half Dollars, Dollars, and Eagles all have Crosslet 4's, and the other five denominations have Plain 4's. There might have been a good reason for using Crosslet 4's on half the denominations and Plain 4's on the other half, but if so, it has long been forgotten.

There is one additional observation to make concerning the case for this set. On the cover is a sticker which reads, "Book 22, Page 166, Item #29." This sticker probably dates to the early 20th century and likely refers to a ledger entry, seemingly from a very large collection. Virgil Brand or Col. E.H.R. Green perhaps?

COMPLETE 1859 PROOF SET FROM CENT TO DOUBLE EAGLE



**COMPLETE 1859 PROOF SET
FROM CENT TO DOUBLE EAGLE**



834. **1859 Proof Set** consisting of the following thirteen coins: One Cent, Silver Three Cents, Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar, Silver Dollar, Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Three Dollars, Half Eagle, Eagle, and Double Eagle. According to R.W. Julian, 800 Proofs were struck of each denomination other than the gold. It is likely, however, that only about half of the sets minted were actually distributed. Also, a reported 80 Proofs of each gold denomination were struck. The vast majority of these were surely melted since all Proof 1859 gold coins are extremely rare. This is an extraordinary set of exceptional quality. The silver coins constitute an original set and must be seen to be fully appreciated because all of them are Gems

and have medium to deep multi-colored toning that is unusually beautiful. All of the gold coins are also of very high quality, especially so when considering the early date of this set. Although individual denominations have been offered from time to time, I can find no record of a complete 1859 Proof set, including the gold coins, being offered for sale at public auction as a single item. The non-gold portion of this set was purchased intact as an original set from Stack's in the May 1961 Howard Egolf sale, Lot 778, for \$775. The gold coins were purchased individually as indicated. Following is a description of the individual coins in this set.

a. **1859 Indian Head Cent. Very Choice Proof.** A lovely specimen with attractive reddish-gold toning and just a few insignificant spots. There is one tiny mark in the field between the nose and D of UNITED, and one even more minute mark on the cheek.

b. **1859 Silver Three Cent Piece. Gem Proof.** Boldly struck with full mirror fields, fabulous light to medium blue, gold and russet toning, and nearly flawless surfaces. This specimen was struck using the same reverse die described earlier that was used for the Proofs of 1856, 1857 and 1858 (see Lots 406, 407 and 408).

c. **1859 Half Dime. Gem Proof.** Weak at the denticles on the lower obverse from K-4 to K-8, especially below the date, and on the upper reverse from K-10 to K-3. The coin has absolutely extraordinary color. On the obverse, the left side is violet, whereas the right side and date area are blue and greenish-gold. The reverse is a deeper, more uniform blend of blue, violet and gold. The date has been double punched, the doubling showing most clearly on the 1, but also barely visible on the 5 and the 9.

d. **1859 Dime. Gem Proof.** Boldly struck with deep mirror fields and the most incredibly beautiful toning imaginable. The obverse has medium to deep toning with superb shades of reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold. The reverse has lighter and somewhat cooler toning with mostly blue and gold shades as well as a trace of reddish-gold and violet near the border. The fields are flawless, the strike is absolutely full, and there is a high wire rim all around. Except for the addition of the marvelous toning, this coin is essentially "as struck".

e. **1859 Quarter. Gem Proof.** Type I obverse and reverse. Sharply struck with deep mirror fields and a partial wire rim. The obverse has light gold toning in the center turning to violet, then deep blue-green at the border. The reverse is more deeply toned with gorgeous, cool shades of blue and gold and just a hint of pale russet at the left border. Breen notes that, "Type I proofs are very rare."

f. **1859 Half Dollar. Gem Proof.** Type I reverse. A superb specimen with deep mirror fields and fantastic medium to deep iridescent toning, a blend of violet, blue and greenish-gold. There are a few very tiny lint marks in the fields as well as one larger one between the 3rd and 4th stars. There is a very tiny die lump in the field to the left of the top of the 1 in the date; perhaps this is a remnant from a misplaced 1 punched in the wrong position.

g. **1859 Silver Dollar. Gem Proof.** Weakly struck on the left obverse stars, very sharply struck elsewhere. Beautiful deep mirror fields and frosty devices that are covered with absolutely superb reddish-gold, violet, blue and greenish-gold toning. This coin is a perfect match for the other silver coins in the set, and its overall appearance is absolutely superb. There is just the barest trace of repunching on the date, noticeable at the base of the 1 and the bottoms of the upper and lower loops of the 8 and 9.

h. **1859 Gold Dollar. Gem Proof.** Slightly cloudy surfaces which are typically the hallmark of an uncleaned, untampered with gold Proof coin of the 19th Century. This specimen has deep mirror fields and ultra-rich yellow gold color. There is a die scratch running from a denticle under the N in UNITED diagonally into the field, and a number of finer die scratches around UNI of UNITED. There is just a trace of crumbling of the die near the reverse border, and some weakness on the bottom of the 8 and also on the 5. For a Proof Gold Dollar of this period, this coin is really quite exceptional, and it certainly ranks as one of the finest known Proofs of this date. Reportedly, 80 Proofs were struck, but most were undoubtedly melted; only 15-20 are known today. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Charles Green Collection in 1949 where it was offered as Lot 14 and realized \$28.50.

i. **1859 Quarter Eagle. Gem Proof.** Fully struck with a high wire rim on the obverse and deep mirror fields throughout. There is a slight haziness to the surface which gives it a very similar overall appearance to the Gold Dollar and several other gold coins in the set. There is one tiny lint mark at the 6th star and an area of die deterioration on the reverse in the denticles above AMERICA. This coin has the Type I reverse which is typical of all known Proof 1859 Quarter Eagles other than the possibly unique example in the Byron Reed Collection which had a Type II reverse. Of the relatively few known Proof 1859 Quarter Eagles, this piece is definitely near the top in terms of overall quality. If the reported mintage of 80 Proofs is correct, most of them must have been melted since the 1859 is as least as rare in Proof as any Quarter Eagle of the 1860's, several of which had mintages of only 25-30 pieces. Today, only about 10-12 Proof 1859 Quarter Eagles are known, four of which are held in permanent collections. Purchased from the 1948 "Memorable" sale conducted by Numismatic Gallery. It was offered as Lot 118 and realized \$60. Earlier it was in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale of 1946, Lot 127.

j. **1859 Three Dollars. Very Choice Proof.** Similar in appearance to the preceding two gold Proofs with just a very light haze to the surface, indicating that the coin has not been cleaned or tampered with; the color is a very rich yellow gold. There are a few very faint hairlines in the fields as well as a number of tiny lint marks and minute planchet imperfections. There are also a few marks on the lower right side of the wreath. The date has noticeable repunching visible on the outside curve of the 9. This is an attractive, original, and very choice coin that falls just short of the Gem quality of the Gold Dollar and Quarter Eagle. Extremely rare, on a par with the Quarter Eagle. Approximately 10-12 Proofs are known, four of which are permanently unavailable to collectors. Purchased privately from dealer John Zug on 5/20/49 for \$100.

k. **1859 Half Eagle. Very Choice Proof.** Very similar matched in general appearance to the first three gold Proofs just described. This coin is very sharply struck with deep mirror fields, great luster and gorgeous rich yellow gold toning. The reverse is Gem quality with only a minor planchet imperfection in the field between the D of the denomination and the A of AMERICA. On the obverse, however,

there are a few light hairlines, including one from the upper lip past the 4th star to the rim. The date is small and rather low in the field. Extremely rare, even more so than any of the smaller gold denominations. Only 8-10 Proofs exist, including four specimens which are in museums and thus unavailable to collectors. Purchased by JJP from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (featuring the Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 383, for \$165.

1. **1859 Eagle. Choice Proof** or better. Deep mirror fields, rich yellow gold color with just a hint of a copper hue. Weakly struck on stars 1 through 4 and stars 12 and 13; the coin, however, is very well struck elsewhere. The brilliant mirror fields show a few light hairlines, and there are several lint marks around Liberty's eye as well as one diagonal one in the field in front of the bridge of the nose. None of the hairlines is particularly detracting, although there is a small area of dense hairlines midway between the chin and the 3rd star. This coin has eye appeal that distinctly surpasses its technical grade. Purchased on 7/22/49 from Chicago dealer, James T. Randall, for \$150.

The 1859 Eagle in Proof is extremely rare, and no more than 8-10 specimens exist, four of which are permanently held in the ANS, Smithsonian and British Royal Mint Collections. These three museums possess a combined four pieces of each of the gold denominations of 1859 in Proof, except the Double Eagle, of which they have only two. (The British Royal Mint does not have a Proof 1859 Double Eagle, but it does have two Proofs of each of the other denominations, including the Eagle.)

2. **1859 Double Eagle. Proof**, virtually in the Choice category, but ultimately kept from that designation by some very light hairlines throughout the fields and on the face and neck. The coin is brilliant and deeply mirrorlike with extraordinary rich orange gold color. The strike is very full and

the overall appearance of the coin, despite the light hairlines, is truly excellent and totally in keeping with the other coins in this set. Of course, larger coins such as this Double Eagle are much more at risk for hairlines and mishandling than smaller, lighter coins such as the Gold Dollar and Quarter Eagle. If the reported mintage of 80 Proofs is correct, it is certainly the case that most were melted, since this date in Proof is at least as rare as any date that follows, including those with mintages as low as 20 pieces. It is estimated that only 6-8 examples are known, two of which are permanently held in the ANS and Smithsonian Collections. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's Chadwick-Darnell sale, 5/52, Lot 814, for \$525.

Following is a list of the Proof 1859 Double Eagles that I have been able to trace. All of them are distinct specimens but, of course, this list may not contain all of the Proof 1859 Double Eagles in existence. For example, at one time the British Royal Mint probably had two examples, since they have two Proofs of every other gold denomination of the year. Where are they now?

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. ANS.
3. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*
Kosoff 5/52: 814; Atwater: 1251; Morgenthau 418th sale: 364.
4. Ed Trompeter estate; Louis Eliasberg: 899; John Clapp;
James Ten Eyck: 314.
5. Wolfson: 869; Menjou: 1797; "Memorable": 685;
"World's Greatest Collection": 862; Parmelee: 1302.
6. "H.R. Lee": 1703; Louis Eliasberg duplicate; J.F. Bell: 819.

In addition to the above, a specimen has been certified as Proof-66 by NGC. It may be number 5 or 6 on this list. If not, it is a seventh example.

Viewing of Lots

1. Lots from the John Jay Pittman Collection sale, Part One, will be available for viewing in Salons A, B, and C of the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor from Saturday, October 18, 1997, through Thursday, October 23, 1997, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:30 P.M. daily.
2. Lots will also be available for viewing in Rochester, New York, from September 22, 1997, through October 10, 1997 (excluding weekends), **by appointment only**.

ORIGINAL 1886 GOLD PROOF SET

Contains Gold Dollar Through Double Eagle



ORIGINAL 1886 GOLD PROOF SET

835. **1886 Original Gold Proof Set** consisting of the following six coins: Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Three Dollars, Half Eagle, Eagle and Double Eagle. This is a remarkable set with every coin of the highest possible quality. None of the coins has ever been dipped, cleaned or mishandled in any way. With the sale of many of the truly major "old-time" collections over the last two decades, few original gold Proof sets of any date have remained intact; most have been broken up and dispersed. This may be one of the last, if not the last, complete, original 1886 gold Proof sets in existence. Purchased by JJP as individual, consecutive lots, 473-478, from the New Netherlands 28th sale in 1949 for a total of \$463.50. Following is a description of the individual coins in this incredible set.

- a. **1886 Gold Dollar. Gem Proof.** 1,016 Proofs minted. A superb specimen with deep mirror fields and fabulous orange gold toning. This orange color is especially evident on the obverse; the reverse has just a trace of orange gold near the right border. The strike is very sharp and the denticles are well defined with mirror surface between each denticle on the obverse. Identifiable by a lint mark in the field near the first A of AMERICA. The Dollar is by far the most common denomination of the set; at least 200-300 examples still exist, perhaps more, although only a relative few are as choice, original, and beautiful as this one.
- b. **1886 Quarter Eagle. Gem Proof.** 88 Proofs minted. Beautiful medium orange gold color. Deeply mirrorlike and fully struck with a square edge and bold design details. There is a light hazy film over the surface which is a hallmark of original, uncleaned gold Proofs of the 19th Century. Only 30-40 Proofs are thought to have survived.
- c. **1886 Three Dollars. Very Choice Proof,** nearly in the Gem category. 142 Proofs minted. A lovely specimen with ultra-rich orange gold color and just a slight cloudy haze to the surfaces. There is a sizable lint mark near the left reverse rim at K-9, and there are a few hairlines on the obverse. A perfect visual match for all the other coins in this set. This is the most common denomination of the set after the Gold Dollar. At least 65-85 Proofs are known.
- d. **1886 Half Eagle. Gem Proof.** 72 Proofs minted. Brilliant mirror fields that have a definite "orange peel" texture and lovely, natural orange gold color. The orange shade is, of course, imparted by the copper that is present in the alloy. This coin has a super quality reverse that is basically flawless with no hairlines or marks of any kind. The obverse does have several light hairlines that are hidden under the cloudy natural toning, but the coin is still easily in the Gem category and one of the finest known specimens, perhaps even the finest. Only 25-30 Proofs are thought to exist.
- e. **1886 Eagle. Gem Proof.** 60 Proofs minted. A little cloudier than any of the preceding, but this is just a sign that the coin has never been dipped, cleaned or otherwise mishandled in any way. The surfaces are virtually pristine, except for one tiny contact mark in the field near the 12th star. The color is a rich orange gold, and underneath the cloudy toning, the coin has superb orange peel surfaces and radiant luster. Like every coin in this remarkable original gold Proof set, this piece has a beautiful overall appearance, and it certainly ranks at or near the top of known Proof 1886 Eagles; I have never seen a finer one. This is the rarest denomination of the year in Proof; it is likely that only 20-25 examples exist, if that many.
- f. **1886 Double Eagle. Gem Proof.** 106 Proofs minted. A fabulous coin with cloudy toning, once again marking the fact that it is an uncleaned, original Proof that no one has ever attempted to clean or dip. The coin has the fabulous rich orange gold color that all of the Proofs in this set have. The obverse is virtually flawless with only a few very faint hairlines that are scarcely visible under the hazy toning. On the reverse, there is a dark area of carbon forming at the right side of the shield, but the surfaces are otherwise unimpaired and free of marks or hairlines. (The carbon on this and other gold coins is produced when copper, present in the alloy, migrates to the surface, oxidizes and turns black. Such an occurrence is rather commonplace on U.S. gold coins).

Because of the low mintage and extreme rarity of the business strikes of this issue, which are all but unobtainable in Mint State, Proof 1886 Double Eagles have always been in great demand and are considered to be among the classic Proof U.S. gold coin rarities. (Actually, the Double Eagle is more common than the Half Eagle and Eagle in Proof, but the latter do not have the same level of fame since they are not rare as business strikes). Of the 106 Proof 1886 Double Eagles minted, only about 30-40 have survived to the present day.

Buyer's Charge

A 10% buyer's charge will be added to all invoices. This buyer's charge is applicable to all successful bidders regardless of affiliation with any group or organization.

ORIGINAL 1893 PROOF SET



836. **1893 Original Proof Set** consisting of six coins from the Indian Head Cent to the Morgan Dollar. This set was purchased from George Bauer in 1945 for \$12.50. Mr. Bauer indicated it was from the "Trantum" Collection. Only 792 complete (non-gold) Proof sets were issued in 1893, plus an additional 1,403 pieces of both the Cent and Nickel. Until the late 1970's, original sets such as this one and the 1894 that follows, were still occasionally seen. Now, however, nearly all of them have been broken up, and only a few intact original sets still exist.

The grades and descriptions of the individual coins in this 1893 Proof set are as follows.

- a. **1893 Indian Head Cent. Proof.** Light gold and iridescent toning, moderate spots on the obverse.
- b. **1893 Liberty Nickel. Proof.** Dull surfaces with cloudy reddish-gold and blue toning. A number of pinpoint carbon spots.
- c. **1893 Barber Dime. Gem Proof.** A superb, virtually flawless specimen with fantastic medium multicolored toning. The obverse is a cool blend of greenish-gold and blue with some reddish-gold and violet. On the reverse, there are gorgeous sunset shades of reddish-gold and violet within the wreath and deeper blue and violet at the border.

d. **1893 Barber Quarter. Very Choice Proof,** a borderline Gem. Deep mirror fields, bold strike, and superb blue, greenish-gold and russet toning. The coin has a few trivial hairlines and marks that are hidden by the toning, and there are several tiny spots on both sides.

e. **1893 Barber Half Dollar. Gem Proof.** Superb medium blue, greenish-gold, violet and russet toning. The reverse of this coin is absolutely flawless and unmarked, and incredibly beautiful. The obverse is also extremely choice and attractive, although it does have a thin scratch on the wide inner border near the 10th star, as well as a small spot between the 11th and 12th stars.

f. **1893 Morgan Dollar. Gem Proof.** Sharp square edge with a partial wire rim, but the coin is rather weakly struck on the hair over Liberty's ear and on the eagle's breast feathers. This weakness is very typical of Proof Morgan Dollars of this year, although admittedly there are some examples that are more fully struck than this one. The coin has virtually flawless mirror fields that are free of even the most minute and insignificant marks or hairlines. It also has the fabulous toning that characterizes the other silver coins in this set, namely a gorgeous medium blend of greenish-gold, violet, blue and russet. The strike may not be quite as sharp as some would like, but the color and quality of the surfaces are basically unimprovable.

ORIGINAL 1894 PROOF SET



837. **1894 Original Proof Set** consisting of six coins from the Indian Head Cent to the Morgan Dollar. Only 972 complete (non-gold) Proof sets were issued in 1894 with an additional 1,660 pieces of both the Cent and Nickel. Relatively few original sets remain intact today. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery (Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg) in June 1947 for \$21.

Following are the grades and descriptions of the individual coins in the set.

- a. **1894 Indian Head Cent. Gem Proof.** Full mint red and gold reverse, medium iridescent toning on the obverse.
- b. **1894 Liberty Nickel. Gem Proof.** Lovely gold and iridescent obverse, pale gold and blue reverse.
- c. **1894 Barber Dime. Gem Proof.** Mostly brilliant obverse with beautiful russet, violet and blue peripheral toning. The reverse is absolutely sensational with medium shades of violet, reddish-gold and blue. The coin is very weakly struck in the denticles on the right side of the reverse, but sharp elsewhere. It has almost perfect surfaces and many of the characteristics of a business strike. There are certainly patches of mint frost on the obverse, but the reverse is deeply mirrorlike.

d. **1894 Barber Quarter. Gem Proof.** Another superb coin with pale reddish-gold toning on the obverse and deeper russet shades near the border; the reverse is especially lovely with deep shades of blue, violet and reddish-gold. There is also a diagonal area of light gold toning on the reverse as if the eagle's body were focused in a spotlight.

e. **1894 Barber Half Dollar. Gem Proof.** Light golden toning in the center of the obverse with deeper shades of russet, violet and blue at the periphery. The reverse has similar shades, but the peripheral toning extends further into the coin with only the eagle bathed in a light reddish-gold color. The coin is very sharply struck with a high wire rim and a square edge.

f. **1894 Morgan Dollar. Gem Proof.** Another superbly toned coin with gorgeous shades of light gold, deeper reddish-gold, violet and midnight blue. The coin is fully struck with a square edge and a high wire rim.

U.S. GOLD DOLLARS



838. 1849, Open Wreath, Small Head, No L. Uncirculated.

Very sharply struck with full frosty mint luster and gorgeous rich yellow gold color. The two lowest stars (directly below the neck) both show recutting, as they do on all known examples of this variety. A scarce, low mintage issue with only 1,000 pieces struck.

In Breen's Encyclopedia, he states that on the two Small Head varieties of 1849, the coronet point is midway between stars, and that on the Large Head varieties, it is closer to the star on the right. This is incorrect and has caused identification problems in the past. On the Small Head variety, the coronet point is much closer to the star at the left, while on the Large Head, it is just barely to the right of center.

839. 1849, Open Wreath, Small Head, L On Truncation. Almost Uncirculated.

A lustrous specimen with rich greenish-gold toning and a few areas of copper coloration. JJP purchased this coin for \$9 (date, seller unknown), and on his inventory envelope notes that it is, "Extremely rare, auction record over \$25 for similar coin." Although it may have been considered "Extremely rare" at one time, today it is clear that this variety is only moderately scarce, and then only in the higher Mint State grades.

840. 1849, Open Wreath, Large Head, L On Truncation. Almost Uncirculated.

Well struck with attractive coppery-gold color and a modest number of light marks and abrasions. Purchased as Lot 2 from an unknown auction on 3/20/58 for \$24.80.

841. 1849, Closed Wreath, Large Head. Uncirculated.

Very sharply struck with all of the stars showing complete radial lines; there is also full detail on Liberty's hair. The surfaces are frosty and have considerable luster although there are a few hairlines. There is also a sharp abrasion on the top hair curl below L in LIBERTY on the coronet. Purchased by JJP for \$32 from the New Netherlands 49th sale, 6/12/57, Lot 692, where it was noted as being, "Ex. Brand".

842. 1849-C, Closed Wreath. Fine to Very Fine.

Flatly struck on the hair as usual. Light greenish-gold toning with some copper shades around the letters and devices. Moderate bagmarks and abrasions in the fields, as well as several edge nicks. Purchased from Dr. Conway Bolt, 3/2/59, for \$40.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1849-D GOLD DOLLAR



843. 1849-D, Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with full hair detail and outstanding luster, especially on the obverse. Weak borders and irregular rims, both a function of poor dies. The obverse is nearly in the Choice category with only a few light hairlines and contact marks; the reverse, however, has moderate marks, hairlines, and abrasions. This is a scarce date in all grades and a rare one in Mint State; only 21,588 were minted. Purchased for \$13.50 from Barney Bluestone's 104th sale, Lot 848, 12/48.

844. 1849-O, Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck, but from worn dies, as indicated by the lack of detail on the reverse at the bottom of the date and top of the bow. Rich greenish-gold color and light to moderate hairlines and contact marks. Purchased by JJP for \$2 from a Mr. Swift, date of transaction unknown.

845. 1850, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Light orange gold color. Small nick on obverse rim at K-2, and a fine scratch running horizontally at the upper part of the wreath.



846. 1850-C, Very Fine. Medium orange gold color. Several prominent obverse scratches across Liberty's face, numerous light contact marks throughout the fields. Purchased by JJP for \$120 from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA sale, Lot 611.



847. 1850-D, Very Fine or better. Weakly struck in places, including Liberty's hair, LAR of DOLLAR, and the second two numerals in the date. Greenish-gold and copper toning, light hairlines and marks in the fields. A scarce date, even in this rather low grade; a mere 8,382 pieces were minted. Purchased for \$80 from Abe Kosoff on 4/19/58.



848. 1850-O, Extremely Fine. Medium yellow-gold color with just a hint of copper. Minor marks in the fields as well as on the rim. Purchased from Abe Kosoff on 7/12/55 for \$19.

849. 1851, Choice Almost Uncirculated. A frosty, well struck specimen with attractive light orange gold toning. Nick on Liberty's cheek and a few other scattered hairlines and marks.



850. 1851-C, Extremely Fine. Sharply struck with partially prooflike fields under attractive reddish-gold toning. Some light scratches in the obverse field, as well as one on the reverse that runs diagonally from the right foot of the first 1 in the date toward the wreath. There is also a dig in the field between F in OF and the first A in AMERICA. The second S in STATES in the legend is very weak at the top. Purchased for \$115 from Stack's George Walton sale in June 1963, Lot 15.



851. 1851-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Fairly well struck for the issue, although it is very weak at the border denticles due to die wear. The coin has most of its original mint luster and very attractive copper-gold toning. There is one tiny scratch on Liberty's cheek, but this coin is actually quite close to full Mint State. There are numerous die scratches and striations in the fields, and distinct repunching on the first 1 in the date, noticeable at the bottom. Usually available only in VF or EF, occasionally AU; examples this choice are rare. Purchased for \$41 in October 1957 from B.M. Douglas' MANA sale where it was offered as Lot 1173.

852. 1851-O, Very Fine. Light orange gold color. Horizontal die break running from the rim between two stars to the bridge of the nose and then the eyelid. Purchased for \$6.25 from David Bullowa's 5/24/52 sale, Lot 1145.



853. 1852, Uncirculated. Hairline scratch running diagonally from the bust below the lowest haircurl to the star below the point of the bust. There is also a noticeable dig on the reverse below the 5 in the date. The coin is very sharply struck with full frosty mint luster. Purchased from George Bauer in 1946 for \$3.70.

854. 1852-C, Very Fine. Coppery toning around letters and devices. A number of very heavy scratches in the field in front of the face. Purchased from a James Kelly auction in 11/57, Lot 1146, for \$47.50.



855. 1852-D, Extremely Fine. Well struck for the issue. Dull greenish-gold and orange toning. A number of fine hairline die breaks on the reverse run from various points in the denticles through letters to the wreath, sometimes beyond. Clashed dies are evident around the head, and the dies show damage at the bridge of Liberty's nose. This is a very rare and underrated issue, nearly as rare as the 1854-D. Acquired as Uncirculated from French's 2/13/59 sale, Lot 16, for \$140.

856. 1852-O, Very Fine, although the head shows little detail due to weak striking and/or worn dies. Nick on Liberty's nose and several fine scratches on the bust. The coin has rich orange gold color. Purchased for \$7.75 from French's 5/14/55 sale, Lot 977.

857. 1853, Almost Uncirculated. Frosty and well struck. Clash marks on the face near the ear and on the neck. Deep scratch in the field and by the star near the tip of the coronet.



858. 1853-C, Extremely Fine, although somewhat weak on the hair, at 18 of the date, and the second L of DOLLAR. There is a scratch across the denomination 1 on the reverse, and a dig in the field at a star below the bust. There are also some edge irregularities. This coin has a boldly double punched mintmark (Breen-6027), which is noted as being rare. JJP purchased this coin from French's 2/14/59 sale, Lot 19, for \$60.



859. 1853-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. A lustrous, well struck example with some light hairlines, scratches and contact marks in the fields. Bluntly struck on the hair as usual, and weak at the borders from die deterioration. The

reverse is about one half grade higher than the obverse, a not uncommon occurrence for this issue, and other C and D Mint Type I Gold Dollars as well. Rare, but a little less so than the similar mintage 1852-D. Purchased for \$57.50 from the New Netherlands 50th sale, 12/7/57, Lot 804.

860. 1853-O, Very Fine or better. Attractive light orange gold toning, light hairlines in the fields. Purchased for \$6.75 from French's 5/14/55 sale, Lot 979.

861. 1854, Type I, Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck with full mint frost and excellent luster. Numerous die breaks in the obverse stars, the most prominent from the rim to the star immediately to the left of the tip of the coronet.



862. 1854-D, Choice Extremely Fine. Very well struck for the issue with attractive light orange gold toning. The surfaces are a little dull, and the coin has a few marks, including several on the rims. There is a small scrape between two stars in front of the nose and another smaller abrasion in the field in front of the neck. This coin is struck from a reverse die that has numerous die scratches to the left of the mintmark and in the lower left portion of the wreath and the bow; all 1854-D Gold Dollars that I have seen were struck from this same reverse die. The LA in DOLLAR and the 5 and 4 in the date are both very weak. This is the rarest Type I Gold Dollar from the Dahlonega Mint. It is also very close in rarity to the more famous 1855-D, 1856-D, 1860-D and 1861-D. JJP paid \$185 for this coin at Stack's Wilson-Reuter sale in 10/59 where the coin was sold as Lot 743.

Pittman, Part Two

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will take place on May 20-21, 1998, at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. This second sale will consist of U.S. Coins, Medals and Paper Money, and will be conducted in two sessions.

Featured in this second sale will be all the U.S. denominations not appearing in Part One. Highlighting the sale will be the exceedingly rare Proof 1838 Eagle, one of only three specimens known. JJP's duplicate Proof 1835 Half Eagle will also be offered as well as Proof sets dated 1845 and 1846 (both with gold) in their original cases of issue. Many pre-1858 Proof coins will be in the sale including a number of Bust Quarters and Half Dollars, Classic Head Quarter Eagles of 1834-1836, the unique 1839 Quarter and Half Dollar (With Drapery), and some incredible, finest known Liberty Seated issues of the 1840's. The sale contains much, much more and promises to be the premier numismatic event of 1998. Don't miss it!

MAGNIFICENT GEM 1854-S GOLD DOLLAR

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



863. 1854-S, Gem Uncirculated. This is an amazing coin that is one of the highlights of JJP's collection of Gold Dollars. It is fully struck with fabulous satiny luster and superb rich orange gold toning. The surfaces on the reverse are exceedingly choice, virtually perfect in fact, but the obverse has a few light hairlines in the field and one tiny mark on the neck. Normally, these might be enough to remove a coin from the Gem category, but the overall appearance of this coin is so superior that to call it less than a Gem would be doing it an injustice. In all my years of both collecting and selling Gold Dollars, I can say that this is one of the two or three finest examples of

this date that I have ever seen, possibly even the finest. JJP purchased it from Numismatic Gallery's 1949 ANA sale, Lot 653, for \$37, where it was succinctly described as, "Perfect Brilliant Uncirculated with mint luster. A superb Gem. Rare."

The 1854-S Gold Dollar is a very scarce date, although it can be located without great difficulty in grades less than Uncirculated. In Mint State condition, however, it is rare, and in Choice or Gem grade, it is very rare with no more than 10-12 pieces in existence, if that many. The reaction to this coin when it was on display at coin shows (obverse up) was very interesting; no one could believe that it was an S Mint coin!

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1854 TYPE II GOLD DOLLAR

One Of Only Four Specimens Known — Just Two In Private Hands



Lot 864

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1854 TYPE II GOLD DOLLAR



864. 1854, Type II, Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and a very sharp square edge. Rich yellow gold color and intense proof luster. Numerous raised die scratches in the fields, particularly near the denticles, around the letters of the obverse legend, and within the wreath. The raised die scratches on the obverse are most noticeable at AME of AMERICA. One long die scratch or file mark slants down just slightly to the right as it runs from a denticle above the top of the left side of the wreath across to the right side of the wreath. The reverse of this coin is Gem quality; the obverse has only a few light hairlines, including one faint one below the tip of the bust, and another that runs from a denticle past the left side of the N to the neck. The light lines in front of the face running diagonally from lower left to upper right are in the planchet and "as made". Within the wreath on the reverse, the letters OLLAR of the denomination are all distinctly recut. The date is bold and in high relief, and shows no recutting. This specimen is somewhat higher quality than the Garrett example, the only other Proof 1854 Type II Gold Dollar that has been available to collectors in this century. Purchased for \$525 by JJP as Lot 1742 of the Melish sale conducted by Abe Kosoff in April 1956. Previously it was in the William H. Woodin Collection sale (1911, Lot 851) and earlier still in the Lorin G. Parmelee sale (1890, Lot 1244) and the Col. Mendes Cohen sale (1875, Lot 240).

Reportedly five Proofs were struck to commemorate the new Gold Dollar design in 1854. Four of these Proofs can be accounted for today and are as follows.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. ANS; J.P. Morgan.
3. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;
Thomas Melish: 1742; William H. Woodin: 851;
Lorin G. Parmelee: 1244; Mendes Cohen: 240.
4. Auction '83: 761; John W. Garrett: 403;
Harold P. Newlin (1884).

Walter Breen's fifth listing is incorrect due to his error of attributing a specimen to Floyd Starr ("Philadelphia Estate"). Floyd Starr did not have a Proof 1854 Type II but rather a Proof 1855. An 1854 Type II Gold Dollar has been certified "Proof 40" (i.e. circulated to EF), but I have not seen the coin. However, the owner will have no difficulty telling if he or she has a true Proof, albeit a well circulated one, by comparing it to the detailed die description that follows. The Proof 1854 Type II Gold Dollar was struck from an obverse die prepared and used only for 1854 Proofs. Furthermore, this 1854 Proof obverse die is distinctly different in certain design details from any die used for 1854 or 1855 business strikes, as well as the obverse die used to strike the Proofs of 1855.

a. On the Proof 1854, the incused LIBERTY on the headband is larger and higher on the band than on any other Type II obverse; it is also more deeply impressed. The left upright of the L is midway between beads two and three. LIBERTY slants down noticeably to the right with Y much farther from the beads than L. On business strikes of 1854 and 1855, and Proofs of 1855, LIBERTY is smaller and centered, more weakly impressed, and the left side of L is under the left edge of bead three. L and Y are approximately equidistant from the beads.

b. On the Proof 1854, the beads in the bottom row are much larger than the beads in the top row. On business strikes and the 1855 Proofs, however, the beads in the top row are more nearly equal in size to those in the bottom row, perhaps even slightly larger.

c. The feathers of the headdress are quite different on the Proofs of 1854 as compared to any business strike Type II Gold Dollars or the 1855 Proofs. On the Proof 1854, there is a distinct notch on both sides of the second feather, and a slightly smaller notch on the right side of the third feather. These serve to make the first three feathers, especially the second, stand out. Also, the feathers are rectangular in shape and distinct from one another. On business strikes of 1854 and 1855, and the Proof 1855, the described notches are not present; the feathers blend together and are not clearly defined and separated. The differences in the feathers do not sound very significant when reduced to a written description, but visually the differences are quite striking and allow instant identification.

JJP purchased this coin at the 1956 Melish sale, which was held in conjunction with the CSNS Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. As the lot was called, he walked to the front of the Florentine Room in the Claypool Hotel where the sale was taking place, turned and faced the crowd, his back to the auctioneer, and held up his arm to bid until the gavel was struck awarding him the lot at \$525. During the bidding process, he intently stared at anyone who "dared" to bid against him. He stayed by the podium and repeated the procedure for the next lot, the Proof 1855 Type II Gold Dollar, and several subsequent lots as well, including the Proof 1856, 1857 and 1858 Gold Dollars. He never wavered and never dropped his arm until he was recognized as the winning bidder in each instance. His actions earned him the nickname "The Statue of Liberty". I asked JJP about this story and he told me he acted as he did because he recognized the importance and rarity of the 1854 and 1855 Proofs especially, and felt he might never again have the opportunity to acquire them. As a result, he was ready to buy them at almost any price. However, since he was always on a restricted budget, he didn't want the prices to get out of hand, and so he felt he would have the best chance to be successful if he were able to convince other prospective bidders to drop out of the bidding early, once they had observed his resolve. Obviously, his tactics worked and he was rewarded with two of the most important prizes in his entire collection, the Proof Type II Gold Dollars of 1854 and 1855. Only a very few collections in history have contained both of these rarities, and JJP was tremendously proud that his collection was one of them.

LOVELY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1854 TYPE II GOLD DOLLAR



865. 1854, Type II, Choice Uncirculated. A lustrous, frosty specimen with superb original greenish-gold and light orange toning. Signs of clash marks in the reverse wreath. A few light hairlines are present on the obverse, but the reverse is very choice. Weak on the tops of the first two

feathers in the headdress, sharp elsewhere. Excellent luster, color and overall appearance. This is by no means a rare date, but it is very popular and in demand as a type coin. Purchased from George Bauer's 10/45 sale, Lot 661, for \$7.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1855 TYPE II GOLD DOLLAR



Lot 866

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1855 TYPE II GOLD DOLLAR

One Of Just 8 Proofs Known



866. **1855, Type II, Choice Proof.** Very sharply struck with brilliant, deep mirror fields and only a few light hairlines on both the obverse and reverse. Beautiful rich yellow gold color. There is a small lint mark and a tiny planchet depression, "as made", in the field between the head-dress and F of OF. Overall, this coin is not quite as choice as the Proof 1854, but it does have a similar appearance with just a very slight haze to the surface, indicating that the coin has not been cleaned or tampered with. As usual for 1855, even on the Proofs, the 8 in the date is rather weak. Purchased by JJP at the same sale as the 1854 Proof, namely the 1956 Melish sale conducted by Abe Kosoff. This coin appeared as Lot 1743 and was purchased for \$225 when JJP, standing in the front of the auction room with his arm held high, stared down and ultimately outbid his competition. Since JJP purchased these two coins together at the Melish sale more than 40 years ago, there has not been another auction (until now) that contained both of the Proof Type II Gold Dollars of 1854 and 1855. Prior to the Melish sale, one must go back to the 1911 Woodin sale to again find both Proofs in the same sale, and 1890 (Parmelee) before that. In each of those two great sales, the specimens offered were the same ones offered now in the Pittman Collection sale.

Following is a complete roster of the known Proof 1855 Type II Gold Dollars. I have personally examined each of the eight specimens listed, and am therefore certain that they are distinct examples.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. ANS; J.P. Morgan.
3. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*
Thomas Melish: 1743; William H. Woodin: 852;
Lorin G. Parmelee: 1255.
4. Harold Bareford: 29; "Memorable": 9;
"World's Greatest Collection": 9; John Story Jenks: 5822.
5. Norman Stack. Sold with his type set in 1990.
In the Stack Collection since at least 1971, per Harvey Stack.
6. Ed Trompeter: 1; Louis Eliasberg, Sr.: 26; John H. Clapp;
Elmer S. Sears (1909).
7. Mocatta Metals. Purchased privately in 1975.
8. Floyd T. Starr: 1084; Probably George H. Hall: 1678;
J.F. Bell: 9. Not from "W.G.C." as stated in the Starr
catalogue. See No. 4 above.

One Proof 1855 Type II Gold Dollar was auctioned in the 1940's by B. Max Mehl on two occasions, first as Belden E. Roach: 1041 and then as Will W. Neil: 2303. It is likely that this is the same coin as either No. 5 or No. 7 above; if not, it is a ninth known specimen. I have also not accounted for the Matthew A. Stickney: 766 specimen in the above list. I believe it to be either No. 4 or No. 6, but cannot be sure of this; however, I am reasonably certain that it is one of the specimens in this listing, and thus not an additional example.



867. **1855, Type II, Uncirculated.** A frosty, lustrous specimen with beautiful greenish-gold and orange color. Clash marks around the head and within the wreath. The 8 in the date is very weak, the two L's in DOLLAR also weaker than the other letters. Some light hairlines and a few contact marks, none of which are really detracting.

868. **1855-C, Fine.** Dull greenish-gold and orange toning. Struck on an uneven, very poor quality planchet. Full date, including the 8, and full DOLLAR. Actually, this coin is better than Fine from a wear standpoint, probably Very Fine would be more accurate, but the coin has such a poor planchet and strike, as well as a couple of very prominent obverse scratches, that an overall grade of Fine best describes the piece. Purchased from French's 2/4/59 sale, Lot 26, for \$37.



869. **1855-D, Very Fine** from the standpoint of overall wear, but heavily burnished and used as jewelry. A loop has been removed and the milling repaired above Liberty's head. Extremely weak in the center of the reverse from die wear, with OLL virtually missing and the 8 in the date entirely obliterated. One of the premier dates in the Gold Dollar series. Only 1,811 were minted and I estimate that just 60-75 pieces are still known. Unfortunately, this is one of the worst. Purchased for \$1,150 from Stack's famous George Walton sale in 1963, Lot 2112.

870. **1855-O, Extremely Fine.** Lustrous greenish-gold toning; several obverse scratches in the field in front of the face and a dig above E in STATES. Very sharp on the obverse, a bit weakly struck on the reverse. Weak 8 in the date. Purchased as Lot 984 from French's 5/14/55 sale for \$13.50.



871. **1856-S, Type II, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State. A lustrous, well struck specimen with beautiful light orange gold toning. All of the feathers in the headdress show excellent detail. There are numerous die breaks on the obverse, including one that runs from a denticle through E in AMERICA to the headdress, and continues on to the area just below Y in LIBERTY. Another runs from the lower left corner of U in UNITED to the throat, and then up to the jawline. The base of the E in STATES is almost entirely missing with only a faint shadow of the right serif still visible; the E looks almost like the letter F. Die clashing is plainly evident within the wreath; there is also considerable die lapping on the reverse, resulting in portions of the bow and wreath being weak or missing. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff on 7/12/55 for \$38.

This coin has a double punched mintmark as seen on most, if not all, known specimens. The first mintmark was punched very high and right, and was only partially effaced before the mintmark was punched into the proper position. Personally, I have never seen an 1856-S Gold Dollar without the double punched mintmark. It is just that on some late die state specimens, like this one, it is very faint to the point of near invisibility; on earlier die state examples, the original misplaced mintmark is very prominent.

Terms of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, will be conducted in accordance with the Terms of Sale printed in the front of this catalogue. We request that each bidder read these terms carefully prior to bidding. Bidding in this sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of Sale.

VERY RARE AND UNDERRATED PROOF 1856 GOLD DOLLAR



872. **1856, Slanting 5, Gem Proof.** A magnificent example of this rarity, with a full strike, deep mirror fields, and superb medium orange gold toning. There are a few light lines in the fields, but most of them were present at the time of striking. This piece is identifiable by a tiny copper spot on the cheek, one minute planchet depression to the right of 1 in the denomination, and a prominent lint mark near the denticles on the reverse at K-4. This is a superb quality example of this rarity and is at least the equal of any other known specimen. It was purchased by JJP as Lot 1750 from the famous Melish Collection sale conducted by Abe Kosoff in 1956, the same sale in which JJP purchased the Proof 1854 and 1855 Type II Gold Dollars, as well as the Proof 1857 and 1858 that follow. The cost of this coin was \$200, quite close to the \$225 realized by the 1855. When JJP purchased this lot, he stood near the podium, facing the crowd in his "Statue of Liberty" pose, until other bidders, resigned to the fact that JJP was not about to lose the lot, ceased bidding, perhaps even before they originally intended to stop.

The exact number of Proof 1856 Gold Dollars is not known. Although copper-silver Proof sets were issued in 1856, there is no evidence that any sets were issued with all the gold coins included, and, in fact, no Proof examples are known or even rumored of the Half Eagle, Eagle or Double Eagle denominations. The three smaller gold denominations (\$1, \$2 1/2 and \$3) were struck in Proof, however, but in very small quantities. Of the Gold Dollar, no more than 8-10 Proofs are known, putting it essentially in the same rarity class as the legendary 1855 Type II. Following is a listing of specimens I have been able to trace; of course, some duplications may exist in this listing and conversely, other examples may exist that are not listed here.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. ANS; J.P. Morgan.
3. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*
Melish: 1750; "Memorable": 11; "World's Greatest Collection": 11; William H. Woodin: 856; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1267.
4. B & M 1/95: 1145; Ed Trompeter: 2; Superior 1/89: 259; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.: 31; John H. Clapp; Matthew A. Stickney: 771.
5. Auction '85: 1367; David W. Akers; Private collection since 1938; Wayte Raymond.
6. Superior 1/93: 1266; Stack's 4/78: 769.
7. Charles Jay: 217.
8. Philip H. Ward, Jr.: 1603.

873. **1856, Type III, Upright 5, Very Fine.** Light greenish-gold and orange toning. Deep gouge in field above R in DOLLAR, another obliterates the R in AMERICA on the obverse.

874. **1856, Slanting 5, Very Fine.** Heavy, closed 6. Light orange gold toning. Very weakly struck at the borders. Planchet defect between the wreath and the border at K-10 on the reverse.



875. **1856-D, Fine,** but used as jewelry. Serious problems almost everywhere, with severe damage on the rim and in the fields. One of the rarest dates of the series; only 1,460 were struck, and I estimate that only 75-100 are still in existence, few worse than this one. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg's 4/59 sale, Lot 2577, for \$240.

VERY RARE PROOF 1857 GOLD DOLLAR



876. **1857, Proof.** Sharply struck with a partial wire rim, deep mirror fields, and attractive light coppery-gold color. There is a lint mark in the obverse field just below the A in STATES. On the reverse, there are some tiny planchet imperfections within the wreath, and a toning streak across the 8 in the date to the bow. There are a few light hairlines in the fields beneath the cloudy toning, as well as some minor scratches on Liberty's cheek. Considerably more attractive than the detailed description makes it sound, and very nearly in the Choice category. Another Proof purchased by JJP from the Melish sale in 1956 using his "Statue of Liberty" technique. This coin appeared as Lot 1755 and realized \$100 in that sale.

Although not quite as rare as the 1855 and 1856 Proof Gold Dollars, the 1857 Gold Dollar is nevertheless an important rarity in Proof, one that is generally available only when great collections such as the Pittman Collection are sold. Proofs of the Quarter Eagle, Three Dollar Gold Piece, Half Eagle, and Eagle are also known of this date, so even though no Double Eagle can be traced at the present time, it is probable that at least one complete Proof set with gold was issued, possibly even 2 or 3 sets. In addition to the complete sets, a small number of extra Proof Gold Dollars and Three Dollar Gold Pieces were also struck. In the case of the Gold Dollar, perhaps as many as 20 Proofs were minted, but only 10-12 specimens can be accounted for today.

877. **1857, Very Fine.** Pale orange gold color. Numerous hairlines and marks in the fields.



878. **1857-C, Extremely Fine** or better. A bit on the dull side, but with attractive light orange gold color. Very weak at the borders with considerable signs of die deterioration in the denticles. There is also evidence of significant die deterioration within the wreath at OL and 18 of the date. Purchased from Stack's 6/20/63 Walton sale, Lot 28, for \$155.



879. **1857-D, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Weakly struck at the tops of the feathers on the headdress, and very weak at the border on the reverse from about K-10 to K-1, the result of badly worn dies. Good luster and attractive orange gold toning. Rare and underrated compared to such issues as 1855-D, 1856-D, 1860-D, and 1861-D; only 3,533 examples of the 1857-D were struck. Purchased for \$110 in May 1958 from Mr. R.J. Salisbury of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

RARE MINT STATE 1857-S GOLD DOLLAR



880. 1857-S, Uncirculated. Well struck and lustrous with attractive light yellow gold and orange color. Evidence of die deterioration at NI of UNITED and in the denticles nearby, and also on the reverse rim near the upper left side of the wreath. There is a lintmark near the denticles above and between the ends of the wreath as well. There are a few light hairlines and contact marks in the fields, but the

coin has outstanding luster and a beautiful overall look. This low mintage issue is very difficult to obtain in high grades and is rare in full Mint State; I would be surprised if more than 15-20 Uncirculated examples are known. Purchased from a James Kelly sale in November 1957, Lot 1152, for \$57.50.

VERY RARE PROOF 1858 GOLD DOLLAR



881. 1858, Very Choice Proof. Fully struck with extremely sharp detail on all design devices, and a very prominent high wire rim and square edge. The coin has attractive light coppery-gold color and just a trace of blue iridescence around the head of Liberty. There are some light hairlines in the fields, including a long fine hairline below STATES. This is the fifth and final Proof Gold Dollar purchased by JJP (a.k.a. the "Statue of Liberty") at Abe Kosoff's famous Thomas Melish sale in 1956 where it was catalogued as Lot 1762 and realized \$175.

Beginning in 1858, Proof production increased substantially at the U.S. Mint, and Proof coins were made easily available to the general public for the first time. Still, although several hundred copper-silver Proof sets were minted and sold, Gold Proofs were made only in extremely small quantities, probably just a few each of the three largest denominations, perhaps 8-12 each of the Quarter Eagle and Three Dollars, and maybe 20-25 Proof Gold Dollars. Today, approximately 12-15 Proof 1858 Gold Dollars are thought to exist.

882. 1858, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold color. Planchet depression below first S in STATES, scratch in obverse field.



883. 1858-D, Very Fine. Dull greenish-gold and light orange toning. Numerous light hairlines and friction in the fields. Typical weak strike for an 1858-D with little detail (from die deterioration) near the upper left reverse border; there is also no detail on the 85 in the date, and the O and both L's in DOLLAR are weak. Despite its slightly lower mintage, the 1858-D is not as rare as the 1857-D Gold Dollar. Purchased for \$350 from James Kelly, no date of purchase noted.



884. 1858-S, Almost Uncirculated. Considerable luster, but the coin has moderate hairlines on the obverse, lighter ones on the reverse. Attractive light coppery-gold color and several tiny nicks on the obverse rim. A very scarce date that is difficult to locate better than this. Purchased for \$31.75 from Abner Kreisberg in July 1956.

885. 1859, Almost Uncirculated. Medium greenish-gold and orange color. Lustrous and well struck.



886. 1859-C, Extremely Fine or better from the standpoint of wear, but flatly struck from badly worn and damaged dies, resulting in almost no detail on the central devices and in the denticles; there is, however, a considerable amount of luster, and the coin has attractive light orange gold toning. Very weak in the center of the reverse at 18 of the date and O of DOLLAR. Very scarce date, seldom seen much better than this. Purchased 3/2/59 from Dr. Conway Bolt for \$65.



887. 1859-D, Very Fine. Attractive light orange gold toning, but struck from worn, damaged dies. No definition near the reverse border, and also weak within the center of the wreath at OLL and 85 of the date (the 5 is missing entirely). The coin is also very flat on the headdress and the hair along Liberty's face. Scarce, but not as much so as the 1857-D and 1858-D; in fact, the 1859-D is the most common Type III Gold Dollar from the Dahlonega Mint. JJP purchased this coin for \$150 from Stack's sale of the Milton Holmes Collection in October 1960, Lot 3143.



888. 1859-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. A lustrous specimen with attractive light orange gold toning, faint hairlines, and a moderate number of contact marks and abrasions in the fields. A very scarce date that is actually less often seen than the much lower mintage 1859-D. Purchased in November 1955, as Lot 1539 from one of B. Max Mehl's final sales for \$27.50.

889. 1860, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Pale yellow and rose toning. Purchased as Uncirculated from David Bullowa's sale of November 8, 1952, for \$14.



890. 1860-D, Very Fine obverse, damaged reverse, with solder removed at the date and bow. Obviously used as jewelry. There are numerous hairlines and marks in the fields and several gouges along the jawline. Very weak at UN of the obverse legend, as is usually the case with 1860-D. As a date, 1860-D is less rare than 1855-D, 1856-D or 1861-D, the other three famous D Mint rarities of the series; approximately 100-120 examples are known of this issue. Purchased from a Mr. Humphrey on 1/15/66 for \$275. JJP's notes indicate that Mr. Humphrey was a gentleman he first met at the 1966 FUN show.



891. 1860-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State with just a trace of friction. Very lustrous with beautiful rich coppery gold toning. Only 13,000 were minted, a lower figure than for the 1859-S; however, this issue does not seem to be quite as rare, particularly in the higher grades. Purchased as Uncirculated from Abe Kosoff on 7/12/55 for \$42.50.

BEAUTIFUL GEM PROOF 1861 GOLD DOLLAR



892. 1861, Gem Proof. 349 Proofs minted. A beautiful specimen with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and a partial wire rim. Very faint cloudy toning covers light yellow gold surfaces. The fields are very high quality with virtually no hairlines other than a couple of faint ones near the tip of the bust. On the reverse, within the wreath, there are several tiny imperfections, present in the planchet when the coin was struck. There is also a slightly larger one just above the left tassel of the wreath. Overall, this is surely one of the highest quality Proof 1861 Gold Dollars

in existence. Purchased from the Dr. Charles W. Green Collection sale (B. Max Mehl) on April 26, 1949, Lot 16, for \$33.

Mint records indicate that 349 Proof Gold Dollars were struck in 1861. If this number is accurate, then it must have been the case that most of the mintage was subsequently melted and never released. The rarity of the Proof 1861 Gold Dollar is reasonably in line with the rarity of most other Proof Gold Dollars from 1862-1880, all of which had mintages of only 20-50 pieces. In my opinion, only 20-25 Proof 1861 Gold Dollars are known today.

893. 1861, Choice Almost Uncirculated, a borderline Mint State coin. Very sharply struck from dies that are as heavily clashed as I have ever seen. The clashing is extremely prominent all around Liberty's head and even into the letters of the legend on the obverse, as well as within the wreath on the reverse. Struck with the reverse die rotated 180 degrees.



low end of the scale, but, of course, this is the premier date rarity of the Gold Dollar series, and it was apparently on this basis alone that JJP purchased the coin privately at the 1961 ANA Convention for \$750 from a Mr. Jackson of Athens, Georgia. Only 60-75 examples are estimated to exist.

With all of the incredible quality coins in his collection, it is, at first glance, rather surprising that JJP would have purchased such low quality examples of the 1855-D, 1856-D, 1860-D, and 1861-D Gold Dollars, each of his specimens a strong candidate for "worst known". Relatively speaking, he also paid very high prices for them. Apparently, he made a decision to complete his collections of Southern Mint (Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans) gold coins, and did so the best he could, based on the limited availability of nice specimens of some of the dates, and on his limited financial resources.

894. 1861-D, Good. Used as jewelry at one time, and now with pebbly, medium greenish-gold surfaces. There is also a heavy lump of solder above TE in STATES, and there is no longer any trace of milling on the coin since it has been in some kind of a mount. Quality wise, this coin is at the very

VERY RARE CHOICE PROOF 1862 GOLD DOLLAR



895. 1862, Very Choice Proof. 35 Proofs minted. A beautiful, original coin with the lightly cloudy surfaces that are a hallmark of an uncleaned, untampered with specimen. The coin also has very attractive medium orange gold color and is very sharply struck with a square edge and deep mirror fields. A few light hairlines are noted in the obverse field, and there is a tiny vertical hairline starting at the denticles above and between the tassels on the wreath. There is also a faint hairline near the bottom right side of the wreath. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Charles W. Green Collection, 4/26/49, Lot 17, for \$30.

Only 35 Proof Gold Dollars were struck in 1862 and perhaps half this number, or a few more, still exist. Beginning with this issue, the same obverse die was used to strike all Proof Gold Dollars through 1873. The die was not used in 1874, but was utilized again in 1875 for all 20 Proofs struck that year. It was used for a small portion of the 45 Proofs of 1876, and then put away for several years, when it was used to mint at least some of the business strikes (but not the Proofs) of 1879. It was resurrected in 1888 and used to mint some business

strikes that year (some experts call these Proofs as well), and a small number of Proofs in 1889. This certainly represents an unusual practice by the Mint, although using the same Proof dies for a number of years is not without precedent (cf. Half Eagle reverse for Proofs of 1844-1848; Silver Dollar reverse for Proofs of 1840-1850; and Silver Three Cent piece reverse for Proofs of 1856-1859 and some later years, among other examples.)

This obverse die is easily recognized by examining the leading feather of the headdress. A portion of this feather has been removed by die lapping, resulting in a brilliant mirror finish within the feather. There is also a small area of mirror surface between the tops of the 4th and 5th feathers, and another even smaller area of mirror surface between the 5th and 6th feathers. On the 1862 and 1863 Proofs, these mirror areas are noticeable, but minor. However, as the die was polished to prepare for each succeeding year's Proof mintage, the brilliant mirror areas became larger. By the late 1860's, and especially the early 1870's, they had become quite prominent, particularly the area within the leading feather. This obverse die is diagnostic of all Proof Gold Dollars from 1862-1873, and is so easily identifiable that it is possible to look at photos of coins called "Proof" in past auction catalogues and determine which ones were really Proofs and which were business strikes.

896. 1862, Almost Uncirculated. Sharply struck with a partial wire rim. Lustrous, light orange gold toning. Purchased for \$2.25 from a Mr. Swift in 1946.



897. 1863, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Partially prooflike and lustrous, with medium yellow gold color and a trace of pale rose. Light to moderate contact marks and hairlines in the fields. This is perhaps the single most unappreciated rarity of the series; among P Mint issues, it is the rarest, and is available less often, particularly in Mint State, than the famous 1875. It is also more rare than the four highly regarded D Mint rarities in terms of population rarity. Purchased privately by JJP in 1963 from Joe Gill for \$100.

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VERY RARE PROOF 1864 GOLD DOLLAR



898. 1864, Proof. 50 Proofs minted. Rich yellow gold color with several small areas of copper colored toning at the rim, as well as between the two L's of the word DOLLAR. Deep mirror fields that have light to moderate hairlines throughout. A few tiny lint marks on the reverse, including one below the left ribbon and several above the top of the wreath by the denticles. Despite the hairlines, this coin has the look of a Choice specimen due to its great color, full strike, and deep mirror fields.

899. 1864, Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold toning. Considerable friction in the fields and some light scratches and contact marks. Purchased as Lot 108 from Hans Schulman's 12/73 sale for \$325.

Purchased for \$1,050 from Stack's 1962 Metropolitan New York sale (featuring the R.E. Cox, Jr. Collection), Lot 2647.

Struck with the obverse die used on all Proof Gold Dollars from 1862-1873. Very rare, more so than the reported Proof mintage of 50 pieces would indicate. The 1864 is more rare in Proof than the 1863 which had the same mintage, and also more rare than the 1862 or 1866 which had much smaller mintages. Only an estimated 15-20 Proof 1864 Gold Dollars are thought to exist.

900. 1865, Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold toning over cloudy, lightly hairlined surfaces. Struck from clashed dies as usual. Purchased as Lot 109 from Hans Schulman's 12/73 sale for \$375.

RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1866 GOLD DOLLAR



901. 1866, Gem Uncirculated. A magnificent specimen with full prooflike fields, a very sharp strike, and beautiful light to medium orange gold toning. There are a few faint hairlines in the field behind Liberty's head, but the overall quality of the coin is outstanding, and this certainly ranks as one of the finest specimens known of this rare date. Obviously this coin is a very early strike, minted before the dies clashed, and it is very similar in overall appearance to a Proof. Even JJP was unsure, since on his coin envelope he has written, "Sent to Abe (Kosoff) for checking", apparently to get Kosoff's opinion as to whether the coin was struck as a Proof or a business strike. Purchased from Jim Charlton's 5/23/64 sale as Lot 441 for \$115.

This coin is one of the two rarest and most desirable Mint State Gold Dollars in the Pittman Collection. (The 1854-S is, of course, the other.) Only 7,130 Gold Dollars were struck in 1866 with just a few hundred pieces having survived the intervening 131 years. Of the known specimens, perhaps 20-30 are Gems. Note: In Breen's Encyclopedia, he states, "Proofs have tops of wreath joined, business strikes have tops of wreath separate." The latter part of his statement is not correct, as this specimen clearly shows, so one should not use the Breen criterion for determining the Proof or Uncirculated status of an 1866 Gold Dollar. The easy and decisive test is to look at the leading feather of the headdress. All 1866 Proofs were struck using the Proof obverse die of 1862-1873, which shows a distinct polished area within the first feather. On all business strikes, the feather is "solid".

VERY RARE PROOF 1867 GOLD DOLLAR



902. **1867, Very Choice Proof.** 50 Proofs minted. A brilliant, light yellow gold specimen with a very sharp strike and deep mirror fields. There are a few light hairlines and one tiny lint mark in the field near the left base of the 1 in the date. On the reverse rim between K-6 and K-7, there is a tiny triangular raised die lump. This is present only on Proofs and, furthermore, all Proofs have it. So together with the polished area within the first feather on the

headdress, this lump is diagnostic of Proof Gold Dollars of 1867. Both of these features show clearly even in old auction catalogue photographs. Very rare, more so than the mintage would imply. Only 15-20 Proofs of this date are known, virtually the same number as of the 1864. Purchased by JJP from the 1950 Menjou sale (Numismatic Gallery, 6/15/50), Lot 433, for \$67.50.

PROOF 1868 GOLD DOLLAR

The Rarest Proof Gold Dollar Of This Decade



903. **1868, Proof.** 25 Proofs minted. Reverse die rotated 180 degrees, as on all Proof Gold Dollars of this date. (Breen mentions the existence of Proofs with normal die alignment, but I have never seen such a Proof.) This specimen is sharply struck with a partial wire rim. It has cloudy, lightly to moderately hairlined fields, and attractive medium orange and greenish-gold color. There are a few tiny contact marks in the fields in addition to the light hairlines. Struck from the same obverse die used for all Proof Gold Dollars from 1862 to 1873. So again, as in 1867, there are two diagnostic features for a Proof 1868 Gold Dollar, the polished area within the first feather of the headdress and, for 1868, the rotated reverse, although it is

possible that Proofs exist without the latter feature. There are no rust pits on the neck as there are on the aluminum Regular Dies Trial Piece in Lot 790, indicating that the gold Proofs were struck prior to the aluminum pieces. Also, the reverses of the aluminum pieces are not rotated. Purchased from Paramount's 1975 Grand Central sale, Lot 498, for \$875.

Of the 25 Proof Gold Dollars originally minted in 1868, only about 12-15 can be accounted for today. The 1868 Proof is a little more rare than the 1864 or 1867, as well as the 1865 and 1869 which had identical mintages. It is, by a small margin, the rarest Proof Gold Dollar of the 1860's.

PROOF 1869 GOLD DOLLAR



904. 1869, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 25 Proofs minted. Light orange gold color and deep mirror fields. Sharply struck with a square edge and partial wire rim; light, random die scratches are present within the reverse wreath. Struck using the same obverse die that was used to mint all Proof Gold Dollars from 1862 to 1873, characterized by the brilliant polished area within the first feather of the headdress. Very rare; only an estimated 14-17 Proofs of this date still exist. This lovely Proof was purchased by JJP from Jacques Schulman of Amsterdam, Netherlands, date of purchase and exact price not noted in JJP's records.

PROOF 1870 GOLD DOLLAR



905. 1870, Proof. 35 Proofs minted. Deep mirror fields and attractive, but irregular coppery gold color. Light to moderate hairlines throughout the fields, and one scrape at the tops of AT in STATES. Struck from the same obverse die as the preceding Proofs beginning in 1862. Very rare with only 14-17 Proofs still in existence. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Will W. Neil Collection, 6/47, Lot 2319, for \$28.50.

906. 1870-S, Extremely Fine from the standpoint of wear, but this coin has been used as jewelry. Heavy solder has been removed from the rim above TES and the coin is heavily burnished with numerous hairlines and scratches in the fields. Purchased in England from A. H. Baldwin & Son for \$63.50 in March 1954, as JJP was returning home from the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt. JJP purchased some incredible coins at the Farouk sale which was perhaps the defining moment in his numismatic career. He also purchased some great coins when he stopped over in England on his way home immediately after the sale. This piece, however, is definitely not one of them.



907. 1871, Uncirculated. Mostly prooflike, but with patches of mint frost. Sharply struck with excellent luster and attractive light yellow and coppery gold color. Purchased as a Brilliant Proof from the Dr. Charles W. Green Collection (B. Max Mehl, April 26, 1949), Lot 26, for \$35.50.

A coin such as this was usually sold as a Proof back in the "old days", but it is actually very easy to tell a Proof 1871 Gold Dollar from a business strike 1871 Gold Dollar. Proofs were struck from the same obverse die that was used to mint all of the Proof Gold Dollars from 1862 to 1873. It is characterized by having a brilliant polished area that is clearly visible within the first feather of the headdress. This makes it easy to tell a Proof from a business strike even from photographs in old catalogues.

VERY RARE PROOF
1872 GOLD DOLLAR

908. 1872, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category and likely to be so graded by many. 30 Proofs minted. This coin has deep mirror fields and none of the patches of mint frost that even the most prooflike business strikes of this year invariably do. It has very deep yellow gold color and only a few scattered hairlines, nearly all of which are on the obverse. Very rare, comparable to the Proofs of 1869 and 1870, with only an estimated 14-17 pieces known. JJP purchased this coin from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Charles W. Green Collection on April 26, 1949, Lot 27, for \$38.50.

Even without knowing the diagnostic feature of the polished, mirrorlike area within the first feather (which this coin, of course, has), it is obvious that the methods of minting of the 1871 in Lot 907 and this 1872 were different. These two coins do not look anything alike when compared side by side, yet both were called Proof as consecutive lots in the same sale, the 1871 incorrectly, this 1872 correctly. Decades ago, nearly all coins with mirrorlike fields were routinely called Proof, and few seemed to question.

CHOICE PROOF 1873 GOLD DOLLAR



909. **1873, Closed 3, Choice Proof.** 25 Proofs minted. There is a light haze covering the yellow gold surfaces, a hallmark of the coin's originality. Very sharply struck with a square edge, partial wire rim, and highly mirrorlike fields with a number of planchet lines that have not been entirely eliminated by the striking process. There are also a few light hairlines and tiny marks, but not enough to keep the coin out of the Choice category. Purchased as Lot 113 from Lester Merkin's September 18, 1968, sale for \$320.

The 1873 is one of the very rarest of all Type III Proof Gold Dollars. As of June 1997, it was the only date in Proof from 1854-1889 that had not been graded by either one of the two major grading services. It is my estimate that only 10-12 Proofs are known. This piece was struck from the same obverse die as the preceding Proofs from 1862 to 1872, as were all Proof 1873 Gold Dollars. This die was not used for the Proofs of 1874, but was put back into service for the Proofs of 1875, and at least some portion of those dated 1876.

910. **1873, Open 3, Almost Uncirculated.** Light greenish-gold and orange toning. All the letters of LIBERTY on the headband are visible.

EXTREMELY RARE PROOF 1875 GOLD DOLLAR



911. **1875, Choice Proof.** 20 Proofs minted. A lovely specimen with an overall appearance that exceeds its technical grade. Very sharply struck with a square edge, high wire rim, and deep mirror fields. The reverse is nearly Gem quality, but the obverse is reduced to a somewhat lower grade by a patch of light hairlines in the field below D STA in the legend. There is a very small planchet imperfection between the 8 of the date and the first L of DOLLAR, as well as a tiny lint mark at the denticles above the top right side of the wreath. There is no spike from the throat into the field (it is present only on business strikes of this date, not on Proofs), and there is also heavy lapping of the die at the first feather in the headdress, indicating that this coin was struck with the same obverse die that was used for all Proof Gold Dollars without interruption from 1862

to 1873. These two characteristics (no spike and incomplete first feather) are absolutely diagnostic of Proof 1875 Gold Dollars, i.e. all Proofs have these characteristics, and business strikes do not. Purchased for \$2,360 by JJP as Lot 1666 from Abe Kosoff's 1968 mail bid sale of the Alex Shuford Collection; this was the highest price JJP paid for any U.S. Proof gold coin in his collection.

The 1875 Gold Dollar is one of the premier rarities of the series. A mere 400 business strikes were minted along with only 20 Proofs. Over the years, many prooflike business strikes have been incorrectly offered as Proofs, making it seem as though Proofs are not especially rare. Some cataloguers in the past even went so far as to say that Uncirculated examples are more rare than Proofs. That is definitely not true, and in Proof, the 1875 Gold Dollar is a major rarity; it is estimated that only 10-12 examples exist.

CHOICE PROOF 1876 GOLD DOLLAR



912. 1876, Choice Proof. 45 Proofs minted. Very appealing deep yellow gold color, brilliant mirror fields, and a very sharp strike. A few light hairlines and marks in the fields, including a small abrasion above LAR. This Proof was struck using a new obverse die that shows none of the die lapping and polishing inside the leading feather on the headdress that characterizes the Proofs from 1862-1873, and 1875. The die is easily identified, however, by the die file mark that runs under the right foot of the first A in AMERICA toward the M. Some other Proofs of this year have the die lapping (cf. Trompeter: 22), so it is clear that

the old 1862 obverse die was used for some, but not all, of the Proof run of 1876, and this new obverse die was also used for an unknown quantity. Although certainly rare, the 1876 issue is the most "common" Gold Dollar in Proof prior to 1881; at least two dozen exist, perhaps even as many as 30. This piece was purchased privately from B.A. Seaby of England, along with the same date Proofs of the \$2 1/2, \$3 and \$5 denominations. This four coin partial 1876 gold Proof set (probably part of an original set) cost JJP \$500 on 8/25/47, making this one of his largest single purchases up to that time.

GEM PROOF 1877 GOLD DOLLAR

One Of The Finest Of Only 10-12 Known



913. 1877, Gem Proof. 20 Proofs minted. A superb specimen with deep mirror fields that have only a few faint, scattered hairlines, and fantastic light orange gold toning. Very sharply struck with an extraordinarily high wire rim on the right side of the obverse; the denticles are distinctly separated with mirror surface between almost all of them on the obverse, and many on the reverse. There are a few pinpoint die rust spots along Liberty's jaw. The obverse is slightly concave, typical of many, if not most, Proof 1877 Gold Dollars. There are some tiny planchet imperfections on the face (present in the planchet when the coin was struck and thus not impairments), and a tiny

lint mark in the field approximately halfway between the mouth and IT of UNITED. Another lint mark connects the O of DOLLAR to the 1 of the date. Very rare, on a par with the Proofs of 1873, 1874 and 1875; only 10-12 are estimated to exist. Purchased as Lot 1800 from Abe Kosoff's 1956 Melish sale for \$48.

This Proof was struck from an entirely new obverse die which is different from the 1862-1875 die, as well as the second Proof obverse die of 1876. This new die is characterized by die file marks within the U of UNITED, and running from the right side of U into the field. I have seen no indication that this die was used for any Proofs after 1877, and it also does not seem to have been used for business strikes of any date.

914. 1877, **Extremely Fine**. Light orange gold color. Lustrous, semi-prooflike fields with considerable friction and rubbing. Scarce, low mintage date with only 3,920 minted.

915. 1878, **Uncirculated**, fully prooflike. Virtually indistinguishable from a true Proof in terms of strike and surface texture. Light orange gold toning and light to moderate hairlines, somewhat more heavy on the reverse than on the obverse. Heavy outlines on DOLL, D and O lightly filled, and the last 8 of the date heavily filled, characteristics of many business strikes. This is a very deceptive piece and it is easy to see why it was sold as a Proof in French's 2/15/59 sale, Lot 63, for \$150.



916. 1879, **Choice Uncirculated**. Highly lustrous with semi-prooflike fields and superb light orange gold color. At first glance, this coin has the appearance of being a Gem, but viewed closely it does have a moderate number of fine hairlines. Purchased as a Brilliant Proof from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Charles W. Green Collection, April 26, 1949, Lot 34, for \$26.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1880 GOLD DOLLAR



917. 1880, **Gem Proof**. 36 Proofs minted. This is an outstanding specimen that ranks as one of the finest examples known among the 20-25 Proofs still in existence. It has a light filmy haze that imparts an almost blue cast to the otherwise deep yellow gold color. There are a few very faint hairlines visible beneath the film, but none of them are worthy of special mention and they are effectively concealed by the cloudy toning. There is a lint mark running from a denticle to the left of U in UNITED to the base of U, and then curling out into the field below it. The wreath tops are solidly joined, in contrast to the business strikes (see next lot) where they are not. There is also a broad frosted area around the top end of each side of the wreath that is much more prominent on Proofs than it is on the business strikes. Finally, when viewed edge-on,

Proofs are decidedly different from the business strikes, since the edge of a Proof is broad and square, as well as "thicker" due to the double striking under extra pressure. Purchased privately for \$370 from Abe Kosoff in February 1970 while JJP was attending the NASC Convention in Los Angeles.

For some reason, the 1880 has always been considered to be one of the most difficult dates to discern its Proof or business strike status, but actually it is quite easy to tell by using the criteria described above. In fact, these criteria are sufficiently obvious that one can usually tell a true Proof from a business strike from the black and white photos in old catalogues. (Examining previous offerings, one will quickly see that many, if not most, 1880 Gold Dollars offered as Proofs over the years have really been business strikes.)



918. 1880, **Very Choice Uncirculated**. Sharply struck with beautiful greenish-gold color highlighted with a tint of copper. Lustrous, partially prooflike fields, and a high wire rim. There is an area of copper/carbon at ED in UNITED and several carbon spots across the top of the wreath. Popular, low mintage date; only 1,636 were struck. Purchased privately by JJP on 3/24/58 from James, Inc. for \$85.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1881 GOLD DOLLAR



919. **1881, Very Choice Proof.** 87 Proofs minted. A lovely, original coin with rich orange gold toning and deep mirror fields that display the telltale "orange peel" texture characteristic of gold Proofs of this era. There is a lint mark in the field in front of the bridge of the nose and another on the reverse to the right of the base of the 1 in the denomination. There are a few very faint hairlines on both sides, the most noticeable of which are inside the wreath on the reverse. True Proofs of this date are rare, but not nearly as much so as any of the previous years; at least 45 and possibly as many as 60 are known. They are easily distinguished from prooflike business strikes by looking at the

left side of the D in DOLLAR. On Proofs, there is an unfinished (non-mirrorlike) area between the lower left side of the D and the wreath. This coin was purchased by JJP for \$170 from Abner Kreisberg's 2/18/61 sale, Lot 994.

In 1973, Paramount International Coin Corporation purchased Leon Lindheim's collection of "Proof" 1881 Gold Dollars. Lindheim had decided to try to purchase the entire 87 coin Proof mintage of this issue, and over a period of many years, he purchased almost every 1881 Gold Dollar that was ever called a Proof. He succeeded in purchasing a total of 54 "Proofs", or 62% of the total mintage...or so he thought. Unfortunately, only 8 of the coins turned out to be true Proofs; the others were all business strikes!

PROOF 1882 GOLD DOLLAR



920. **1882, Proof.** 125 Proofs minted. The surfaces of this coin are sufficiently clean for it to be graded Choice Proof or better because there are only a few light hairlines and virtually no marks. However, the rim of the coin downgrades the piece substantially since it has a number of nicks, some minor, a few fairly prominent. The coin has a very light filmy haze that imparts a slight bluish cast around some of the letters and devices. Purchased at B.M. Douglas' MANA sale in October 1957 as Lot 684 for \$26.

921. **1883, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Light orange gold color. Lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces with a minimum of marks.

GEM PROOF 1884 GOLD DOLLAR



922. **1884, Gem Proof.** 1,006 Proofs minted. An outstanding specimen with deep mirror fields that have the usual "orange peel" texture, and just a few light hairlines. The color is a lovely orange gold with a slight bluish tinged haze on the reverse; there is also a small area of copper toning at the first T of STATES. The numerals 18 in the date are dramatically repunched with the initial numerals much lower than the corrected ones. There is also a trace of repunching visible on the diagonal of the 4. Purchased from French's 2/59 sale, Lot 69, for \$56.

Although Walter Breen states a contrary opinion, both in his Proof Encyclopedia and in his 1988 Complete Encyclopedia, I can say that I have never seen a Proof 1884 Gold Dollar that was not from these dies, and conversely, I have never seen a business strike that was minted from these dies.

VERY CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1885 GOLD DOLLAR



923. **1885, Very Choice Uncirculated, fully prooflike, or possibly Proof.** Slightly cloudy surfaces and attractive orange gold toning. There is a tiny copper/carbon spot at the top of the forehead in the field, and a few light hairlines under the film. This is an extremely deceptive coin with deep mirror fields that even have considerable "orange peel" surface. Furthermore, there are lint marks at NI of UNITED and above the 1 in the denomination near the top of the wreath. In most instances, the combination of an "orange peel" surface and lint marks will indicate that a coin is a Proof, but I do not feel that is the case with this coin. It has rounded rims and much less sharp individual reeding segments than Proofs invariably have. There is also considerable crumbling in the denticles from die deterioration, something not usually seen on Proofs. It is barely possible that this coin is a poorly made Proof, but I feel that it is really just a highly prooflike first strike Mint State coin. Others may disagree, however, so prospective bidders are encouraged to examine this coin closely and draw their own conclusions. Purchased as a Proof for \$45 in a private transaction with Lester Merkin at the 1960 FUN show.

924. **1887, Uncirculated,** almost fully prooflike. Rich yellow gold color and excellent luster and strike. Some light hairlines in the fields, but the coin is very nearly in the Choice category. There is a tiny hairline die break at the top of the wreath; the reverse rim has several small edge nicks. Purchased as a Proof in 1971 for \$240, source unknown.

CHOICE PROOFLIKE 1888 GOLD DOLLAR



925. **1888, Choice Uncirculated,** fully prooflike, so prooflike, in fact, that it is virtually indistinguishable from a Proof. The obverse is literally Gem quality with almost no marks and just a light hazy film on the surface. The reverse, however, has some light hairlines within the wreath, and one faint scratch that runs diagonally from the left tassel, down past the 1 to the field above the R in DOLLAR. Purchased by JJP as a Proof from a Mike Kolman sale, 11/17/56, Lot 1118, for \$27.

This is a variety that has generally been offered as Proof in the past, and it is possible that these were actually struck as Proofs; however, I consider them to be business strikes. This coin was struck using the obverse die that was previously used for Proofs from 1862 to 1873, then again for all Proofs in 1875, and next for some Proofs in 1876. (It was also used for some of the business strikes of 1879, but not the Proofs.) The die has been heavily lapped since its last usage for Proofs in 1876, now showing mirrorlike brilliance in the band below the headdress; LIBERTY has a weak E and Y, and the R and the T are nearly eradicated. Although this coin certainly looks like a Proof in many ways, the edge is rounded, not sharp and square as it is on a Proof. There is also die crumbling in the denticles above ST in STATES and on the corresponding position on the reverse at K-8, uncharacteristic of a true Proof. In the entire Gold Dollar series, there is no more deceptive coin than this one, and I am sure comparable pieces will continue to be offered as Proofs in the future.

PROOF 1889 GOLD DOLLAR



926. **1889, Proof.** 1,779 Proofs minted. Brilliant mirror fields, deep yellow gold color, and full proof luster. Very sharply struck with a square edge, sharply detailed milling, and a partial wire rim. Some hairlines in the fields that range from light to moderate. There is a large lint mark in the field behind Liberty's head and several other smaller ones near the U in UNITED. Struck using the same obverse die as the preceding 1888 business strike, some business strikes of 1879, and all the Proofs from 1862 to 1873, as well as the Proofs of 1875 and a small portion of the Proofs dated 1876. Note: Not all Proofs of 1889 were struck with this obverse die. In fact, most examples I have seen were struck with a different obverse die, one with all the feathers "solid". Purchased as Lot 2339 from the Will W. Neil Collection sale (Mehl, 6/47) for \$15.25.

Mail Bids

Mail bids should be sent in time to be received at the office of David Akers Numismatics, Inc. in Stuart, Florida, no later than Thursday, October 16, 1997. Late bids should be sent directly to the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, 110 South Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, in care of David W. Akers.

U.S. HALF EAGLES

ATTRACTIVE 1795 SMALL EAGLE \$5 GOLD

STATES Over STATED Variety



927. 1795, Small Eagle. Robert Hilt 1-A. Rarity-5. Almost Uncirculated. Very sharply struck and perfectly centered. Full prooflike surfaces and highly lustrous, rich yellow gold color. Light friction, hairlines and contact marks in the fields, as well as one faint diagonal scratch running from the cap across the face to the upper lip. This is the variety with the second S of STATES over a D. The D was barely effaced before the S was punched over it, and the D still clearly shows under the S. Purchased 5/60 from Stack's Neumoyer Collection sale, Lot 2471, for \$500.

This coin is the product of a combination of blundered obverse and reverse dies, both having many spikes, some of which are quite long, that protrude from various denticles into the fields and letters. All of these spikes represent elongation's of denticles and must have resulted from the engraver's engraving tool slipping. These are not die breaks, but rather engraving errors. However, there are also several tiny die breaks, one from a denticle between L and I of LIBERTY to the top left serif of the I, and another from a denticle near U in UNITED to a leaf, as well as to the top of U. Only 8,707 Small Eagle Half Eagles were minted in 1795. Robert Hilt estimates that just 744 were this variety, and further estimates that a mere 36 pieces still exist.



928. 1803/2, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Rich orange gold color with some violet highlights. A scratch runs from the cap across Liberty's hair to the neck below the ear. There are some light hairlines and contact marks in the fields, more noticeable on the obverse than they are on the reverse, and a tiny lint mark at the 12th star. There are also some moderately heavy adjustment marks on the obverse rim by the first 5 stars, as well as some lighter ones near stars 5

through 8, and above Liberty's head. A die break connects the bases of the numerals in the date; another runs from the right reverse rim through the right side of the E in AMERICA to the bottom of the eagle's right wing. The right foot of each of the T's in UNITED and STATES is missing; it appears to be present on the T in UNITED only because of recutting of the letter.

UNCIRCULATED 1804 HALF EAGLE



929. 1804, Small 8, Uncirculated. A lustrous specimen with superb rich orange gold color; very sharply struck and well centered. There are a few faint adjustment marks across the bust that run diagonally from lower left to upper right. There is also a scratch that runs from Liberty's hair curl above the ear down across her jaw to the neck. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1803/2 in the preceding lot, with the horizontal die break running from the rim through the right side of the E to the lower edge of the eagle's wing, the right feet of all T's in UNITED and STATES missing, and T1 distinctly recut.

This is the Small 8 variety with a vertical die break bisecting the entire obverse, running from the denticles between L and I in LIBERTY, down through the bust and across the 0 to the rim. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Dr. Charles W. Green Collection, 4/26/49, Lot 236, for \$47.50.

The 1804 Small 8 Half Eagle is one of the most common early Half Eagles, but it is more difficult to locate than such other issues of the type as 1802/1, 1803/2 and 1806 Round Top 6. The total Half Eagle mintage for this year was 30,475 and perhaps 60% of this mintage consisted of Small 8 pieces.

MINT STATE 1812 HALF EAGLE



930. 1812, Uncirculated. Sharply struck and well centered with excellent luster and superb, rich greenish-gold and orange toning. The fields show prominent evidence of die clashing, especially visible around the figure of Liberty and the eagle, as well as in the date and legend. Under the 1 of the date is a clear impression of the O from OF; the F appears only a little less clearly under the 2. At the corresponding place on the reverse, the incused

1 and 2 show under O and F. A faint 8 also appears in the space between the second S of STATES and the O of OF; the B from LIBERTY is visible at the junction of the branch and the eagle's left leg. Die clashing on early coins is not unusual, but this one is much more interesting than most. Purchased by JJP for \$50 from the Menjou sale, (Numismatic Gallery, 6/50), Lot 1457.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1813 HALF EAGLE



931. 1813, Uncirculated. Well struck on the central devices and on the stars, but weak at the right side of the rim on the obverse and the upper left rim on the reverse. There are some light adjustment marks obliterating the denticles on the right side of the obverse. There are also a few light contact marks and hairlines in the fields, but the

coin is very attractive and has excellent luster and pale greenish-yellow color. There is a tiny die break at the bottom of the D in the denomination that connects it to the stop, and another tiny break that connects the tops of the three letters MER in AMERICA. JJP purchased this coin for \$60 from George Bauer's sale XVI, 10/45.



932. 1814/3, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Light yellow color with some copper highlights on the reverse. Weak at the borders as usual, particularly on the upper obverse. Struck from heavily clashed dies, as are most, if not all known specimens, with the lines of the shield showing in Liberty's hair and ear. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's "World's Greatest Collection" sale, 1/25/46, Lot 364, for \$82.50, a comparatively high price that shows the regard in which this date was held many years ago.

As the next lot in the
John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One,
David Akers Numismatics, Inc.
is proud to present the
Exceedingly Rare 1833 Half Eagle in Proof.



Lot 933

INCREDIBLE GEM PROOF 1833 HALF EAGLE



Lot 933

INCREDIBLE GEM PROOF 1833 HALF EAGLE

One Of Just Two Proofs Known — The Only Collectible Specimen



933. **1833, Large or Wide Date, Gem Proof.** A magnificent, stunning coin which, in my opinion, is the premier coin in the entire Pittman Collection. It is certainly my personal favorite in the collection and, in fact, I consider it to be one of the greatest coins that I have ever seen. The quality and beauty of this incredible Proof will amaze everyone. It is very well struck, as one would expect a Proof to be, and the fields are deeply mirrorlike. The quality of the surfaces would bring credit to a Proof Half Eagle struck 50 or 60 years later, and there are only a few very faint and well scattered hairlines, mentioned only for the sake of utmost accuracy, since the coin is otherwise virtually perfect. The color is a very rich, deep yellow gold with copper hues on the bust and cap; there is a tiny copper spot at the 3rd star and the first two stars also have a coppery tint. On the reverse, there are a couple of little copper toning spots in the eagle's right wing and near the border next to the D in UNITED. (It should be stressed that all of these are only copper in color, and are not carbon.) On both 3's in the date, the bottom ball is connected to the center bar by a thin curved die break. There is a tiny lint mark in the field directly in front of Liberty's chin, as well as several planchet lines that were not struck out in the minting process, including one running from her chin into the field. (These are not impairments and were present in the planchet at the time of striking.) There are a number of die polishing lines on

Liberty's neck, and the incused areas within most of the letters of LIBERTY are fully brilliant, as is the surface within the shield. This coin was one of JJP's most significant purchases from the famous Farouk sale held in Cairo, Egypt, in late February and early March 1954. The coin was Lot 246a and realized 210 Egyptian Pounds which was equivalent at that time to approximately \$605. To this was added a 5% surcharge (a Government tax) for a total cost of \$635.

As a date, the 1833 is certainly rare with only an estimated 60-75 examples known of both major varieties (Large Date and Small Date) combined. Opinions have varied in the past as to the relative rarity of the two varieties, but an extensive analysis of photographs in past auction catalogues (1833 Half Eagles have rarely been attributed by variety) indicates that the Small Date variety is more rare than the Large Date variety, representing approximately 30%-40% of known specimens.

There are only two Proofs known of this date, both of them the Large Date variety. The other example is in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution. At least two other specimens purported to be Proofs have turned out to be prooflike business strikes. Following, then, is the pedigree data for the only two known specimens of the Proof 1833 Half Eagle.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Farouk: 246a; J.F. Bell: 355; Col. James W. Flanagan: 1109; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1021; J. Colvin Randall: 938.

I would like to thank Mr. John McCloskey of Kettering, Ohio, for the extensive information he has provided me on the varieties of the Classic Head Half Eagles contained in the John Jay Pittman Collection. Mr. McCloskey is the President of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (publishers of the Gobrecht Journal), as well as an officer in the John Reich Collectors Society, and one of the authors of the standard reference work on Early U.S. Dimes.

VERY RARE PROOF 1834 CLASSIC HEAD \$5 GOLD



934. 1834, Classic Head, No Motto, Plain 4. Proof. A brilliant, fully struck specimen with most of the original Proof surface still intact. However, the fields show numerous light hairlines, abrasions and even scratches, the latter particularly evident in the reverse field. The coin is a lustrous medium yellow gold color highlighted with areas of copper toning. Signs of double striking are clearly evident in the denticles. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale of the Jerome Kern Collection, 5/50, Lot 365, for \$72.50.

To mark the new Half Eagle design, a small number of Proof Half Eagles were struck in 1834. Most of the known Proofs are the same variety as this specimen; the variety is characterized as follows: Fancy 8 in the date; large 4 close to the curl; 34 close; large arrowheads, the lowest solidly touching the last A in AMERICA; the eagle has a tongue; no berry on the olive branch; second S in STATES recut along lower edge of its middle curve; I in LIBERTY higher than L and B,

tipped slightly left; and large leaves on the branch, well away from U, the tip of the lowest leaf of the top pair directly under the left side of the right upright of U.

According to John McCloskey, there are nine varieties of the 1834 Classic Head Half Eagle, this variety in the middle with respect to rarity. He notes that the Proof in the King of Siam set is the same variety as this coin, as were the two Proofs in Auction '90, the James A. Stack Proof, and a Proof in the ANS collection. He also has informed me that the Smithsonian Institution has a Proof 1834, but a different variety, with the 4 not close to the curl, and no tongue in the eagle. The ANS also has a second Proof 1834 Half Eagle of the same variety as the Smithsonian specimen.

So many 1834 Half Eagles have been called Proof or Impaired Proof when they were actually prooflike business strikes (cf. the next two lots) that it is difficult to make an accurate list of known Proofs. However, I estimate that perhaps 12-15 Proofs are known of the two varieties described, the substantial majority of which are the same variety as the Pittman specimen.



935. 1834, Classic Head, No Motto, Plain 4. Uncirculated, fully prooflike. Struck from the same dies as the Proof in Lot 934, but definitely a business strike and not a true Proof. Both the strike and the surface texture of this coin are very different from the preceding lot, and the rims are rounded and less broad and defined. There are a considerable number of marks and even friction in the fields, but the coin does not show any signs of circulation wear on the high points. There are several small rim nicks, including one directly above Liberty's head, and another on the reverse at K-5. Acquired privately from Spink's of London, England, in August 1958 for the equivalent of approximately \$35.

936. 1834, Classic Head, No Motto, Plain 4. Almost Uncirculated. Fully prooflike with attractive copper and gold color and some violet toning. Considerable friction, marks and hairlines in the fields. There are also some serious reverse scratches, most notably below the eagle's left wing and in the area between the eagle's neck and OF in the legend. Struck from different dies than the preceding two lots with the lowest arrowhead below and well clear of the last A in AMERICA, a block 8 in the date, and a small 4 that has been triple punched. Also, LIBERTY on the headband is thin, the eagle has no tongue, and there is no berry on the olive branch. Purchased as, "Impaired Proof. Mostly brilliant, but unfortunately mishandled", from the 1952 ANA sale, Lot 589, for only \$12.

As the next two lots in the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One,
David Akers Numismatics, Inc. is proud to present
the exceedingly rare Proof Half Eagles of 1835 and 1836,
both of which were formerly in
the famous Lorin G. Parmelee Sale of 1890.



Lot 937



Lot 938



MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1835 HALF EAGLE



Lot 937

MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1835 HALF EAGLE

One Of Only Three Specimens Known



937. **1835, Gem Proof.** A superb specimen that is similar in overall appearance and quality to the 1833; the beauty and outstanding quality of this Proof simply cannot be overstated. The coin is absolutely fully struck with deep mirror fields, a sharp square edge, and the most gorgeous, rich yellow and copper hued gold color imaginable. The fields on both sides have some very light striations from die polishing, and there is one tiny lint mark in the field above the eagle's beak half the distance to TA of STATES. There is also a tiny lint mark between the 3rd star and a denticle, and signs of die polishing lines at Liberty's ear and neck. Horizontal die scratches or file marks run under the date, including one long one that runs from the upper left serif of the 1 toward the tip of the bust. The 7th star is recut. On the reverse, there are two tiny spurs from the tip of the eagle's right wing. To be completely accurate in the description, a few very faint hairlines must be noted in the fields, but they are few in number, and extremely minor in nature. Anyone who loves superb coins, particularly superb early Proof coins, is in for a real treat when they view this coin and the 1833 and 1836 Proof Half Eagles, three very special coins which will long be remembered in the annals of American numismatic auctions. This coin was purchased by JJP from the Numismatic Gallery sale of March 1948, the legendary "Memorable" sale, as Lot 334 for \$140. Previously it had been in the "World's Greatest Collection" sale of 1946 conducted by the same firm

where it was Lot 385 and realized \$150. Prior to being in the collection of F.C.C. Boyd, the owner of "W.G.C.", it was owned by Waldo Newcomer, William H. Woodin, and Lorin G. Parmelee. It sold with the latter's collection in 1890 as Lot 1045 for \$17.

According to John McCloskey, there are eight different varieties of the 1835 Half Eagle, the variety represented by this Proof being the rarest. In fact, this is one of the rarest of the 33 varieties in the entire Classic Head Half Eagle series, and Mr. McCloskey notes that even the most advanced collections with which he is familiar are missing this variety in any condition. The most obvious distinguishing characteristic of this variety is that the lowest leaf in the top pair of leaves on the olive branch nearly touches the left side of the U in UNITED. Other characteristics of this variety are as follows: The eagle has no tongue; no berry on the branch; small arrowheads, the lowest well away from A; letters in LIBERTY recut, B much lower on band than I; large 1 and block 8 in the date; and slender leaves on the olive branch.

Only three Proof 1835 Half Eagles are known, all of them the same variety, all Gems.

1. Smithsonian Institution.

2. *John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;*

"Memorable": 334; "World's Greatest Collection": 385;

Waldo Newcomer; William H. Woodin; Lorin G. Parmelee: 1045.

3. *John Jay Pittman, duplicate; Farouk: 248; Col. E.H.R. Green.*

To be sold in May 1998 in Part Two of the John Jay Pittman Collection sale.

Note: In addition to the three Proofs, there are only a few known business strikes of this variety, including an AU in the ANS Collection, and the Stack's 9/74: 572 coin in a similar grade.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE GEM PROOF 1836 HALF EAGLE



Lot 938

EXCEEDINGLY RARE GEM PROOF 1836 HALF EAGLE

One Of Only Three Specimens Known



938. 1836, Large 5. Gem Proof. This superb Proof does not have quite the exquisite color of the 1833 or 1835, but it is otherwise virtually their equal in terms of overall quality. It is fully struck with deep mirror fields and attractive light yellow gold color. The fields have a number of light striations from die polishing which are similar to those on the 1835, but the surfaces are very clean in terms of marks or hairlines which have occurred since the coin was minted, except for one very tiny mark in the field directly in front of Liberty's neck. There is also a lint mark in the field touching a denticle between the 11th and 12th stars, and another in the field directly above the eagle's head. Numerous light die scratches or file marks are evident on the reverse at UN of UNITED, and there is noticeable strike doubling in the legend. One very light copper toning spot can be seen near the 2nd star, another across the right foot and leg of the A in STATES. The 1 in the date has been distinctly repunched with the numeral initially punched approximately 20% too high in the field before being punched into the correct position.

JJP purchased this magnificent coin from the Farouk sale in 1954 where it was sold as part of a large lot of Half Eagles, Lot 248. The lot was purchased for only 160 Egyptian Pounds which was then equivalent to approximately \$460. An additional 5% Government tax brought the cost of the lot to \$483. This incredible lot also included

a Gem Proof 1835 (not the one in Lot 937, but rather a duplicate that will be sold in Pittman II), and the 1836 Small 5, 1837, 1838, 1838-C and 1838-D Half Eagles which follow in the next few lots. This piece traces its pedigree back to the Parmelee sale of 1890 where it sold for \$21 as Lot 1054.

John McCloskey notes that there are eight varieties of the 1836 Half Eagle. The variety represented by this Proof has the following distinguishing characteristics: Tall 1 in date, repunched; low 8; single forehead curl; 6 in date positioned just to right of being centered under hair curl; no tongue in eagle; no berry on olive branch, the only variety of 1836 with no berry; and medium arrowheads (smaller than on the 1834 Proof, Lot 934, and larger than on the 1835 Proof, Lot 937), lowest arrowhead closer to A than on the 1835 Proof. This is a common variety as a business strike. All Proof 1836 Half Eagles are the same variety as this Pittman specimen, and only three such Proofs are known, all of which are Gems.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;
Farouk: 248; Parmelee: 1054.
3. Brian Hendelson. Part of a complete original 1836 Proof set purchased privately by Hendelson in 1996. Previously unknown to the numismatic community. Owned by the same family in the Philadelphia area since the year of issue.

At least two other 1836 Half Eagles described as Proofs in the past were actually prooflike business strikes.



939. 1836, Small 5, Extremely Fine. Undoubtedly cleaned at one time, imparting an unusual medium orange and

greenish-gold color to the surfaces. A prominent die break runs from a denticle above the 5th star to the hair curl, then down across the face to the ear. On the reverse, a diagonal crack runs from the E in STATES through the eagle's head, and then to the leaves on the olive branch. John McCloskey notes that this is a rare variety for 1836, the finest known example of which is a Mint State specimen in the ANS collection. Purchased by JJP at the Farouk sale in 1954 where it was sold as part of Lot 248 with the 1836 Proof offered in the previous lot, and the 1837 in the following lot, among others.

VERY RARE CHOICE MINT STATE 1837 \$5 GOLD

One Of The Finest Specimens Known



940. 1837, Very Choice Uncirculated. A frosty, lustrous specimen with a very sharp strike and superb medium orange and greenish-gold color. A copper toning spot appears on Liberty's neck below the curl, and there are several other copper colored toning spots on the coin, including one at the upper edge of the eagle's right wing; another larger one is at the top right side of the N in UNITED. There is an area of rather dense die scratches by the denticles at the tip of the eagle's left wing. There are only a few light hairlines and marks in the fields, nothing of consequence whatsoever, and the coin is actually close to the Gem level. As such, it is certainly one of the top four or five examples known of this date and variety. Purchased by JJP from the Farouk sale in 1954 as part of Lot 248. Earlier it was in the Col. E.H.R. Green collection of Half Eagles that was sold largely intact to King Farouk in the early 1940's.

The 1837 is a very scarce and underrated issue; it is especially difficult to locate in Mint State, and Choice and Gem quality examples are very rare. There are three varieties of the 1837 Half Eagle, two Large Date varieties and one Small Date variety. This coin is the Large Date, Small 5 variety and is the most common of the three varieties. It has a block 8 in the date, low 3, and the 7 centered under the curl. On the reverse, the first A in AMERICA touches the wing, and the 5 has been repunched. There is a large berry on the olive branch and the middle arrow shaft is broken or missing at the first talon. On the headband, R in LIBERTY is higher than E at the top and touches it at the base. John McCloskey notes that the Smithsonian Institution has a unique Gem Proof of this date, but it is a different variety than this coin and has a Large Date and Large 5.

UNCIRCULATED 1838 HALF EAGLE



941. 1838, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Very sharply struck with semi-prooflike fields and superb medium orange gold color. Weak at the denticles on the right side of the obverse between K-2 and K-3, and on much of the reverse. A few light bagmarks and hairlines in the fields, none serious. Struck from the same reverse die as the 1837 in Lot 940. On the obverse, the second 8 is positioned closer to the 3 than the curl; the 1 has a tall upper serif. John McCloskey notes that this is the more common of the two varieties of this year. Purchased as part of Lot 248 from the Farouk sale in 1954; formerly in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

942. 1838-C, **Very Fine** or better. Medium greenish-gold color. The fields have a substantial amount of friction, rubbing, and contact marks, but some of the original prooflike surface is still visible. A die break completely bisects the reverse, running from the rim between K-1 and K-2 diagonally across the eagle to the rim between K-7 and K-8. The lower leaf of the top pair nearly touches U. The letters ERT in LIBERTY on the headband are solidly joined at their bases, the B is very low and lightly touches E. Most of the left leg of the eagle is missing due to the reverse die being worn and broken. There are two varieties of 1838-C; this one is the more rare. In any grade, the 1838-C is quite rare; in fact, it is the rarest issue of the type by far (not counting varieties). Obtained as part of Lot 248 from the 1954 Farouk sale; previously in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

BORDERLINE MINT STATE 1838-D HALF EAGLE



943. 1838-D, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**, nearly Mint State. Very sharply struck with rich orange gold color and prooflike surfaces evident under the light friction and rubbing in the fields. There is a heavy abrasion in the field near the 2nd star, as well as a number of other light hairlines and contact marks. A die bulge is noticeable at the tip of the left wing. There is also a die lump between the top of the left wing and the eagle's beak, as well as several others beneath Liberty's chin and in front of her neck. The numerals 183 in the date have been distinctly repunched with the initial numerals showing at the bases of the final ones. These are all characteristics of this variety, which is the only known variety of the 1838-D, an

issue that is very scarce in all grades and definitely rare in this near Mint State condition. Purchased as part of Lot 248 of the Farouk sale in 1954; formerly in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

When JJP purchased Lot 248 from the Farouk sale in 1954 for \$483, he did so strictly to obtain the Gem Proof 1835 and 1836 Half Eagles in the lot. The other five coins, described in the Farouk catalogue as, "Mostly very fine", were really just a bonus, and JJP had very little initial interest in them. Later, however, he came to highly prize the 1838-C and 1838-D since they were important coins in his complete collections of C and D Mint gold coins, of which he was extremely proud; he displayed the sets on numerous occasions at numismatic conventions.

BEAUTIFUL MINT STATE 1839 HALF EAGLE



944. **1839, Uncirculated**, virtually in the Choice category. Lustrous, semi-prooflike fields and superb, light orange gold color. Numerous light striations in the fields, especially around the eagle, date, and above Liberty's head. Light to moderate contact marks and abrasions in the fields, as well as a scrape on Liberty's face near the mouth. There is a small die rust lump on the neck behind the hair curl, another even smaller one on the neck just above the curve of the truncation on a line with the 8 in the date. Purchased by JJP in 1954 at the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt, as part of Lot 249. This large lot also contained all of the coins that follow in Lots 945-962 with the sole exception of Lot 956. The lot realized 170 Egyptian

Pounds, which was then equivalent to approximately \$490. Adding the 5% Government tax brought the final price to \$514. All 18 of these coins were previously in the famous Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

This is the first year of the Liberty Head type designed by Christian Gobrecht, a design that lasted with only a few minor modifications until 1908. A total of 118,143 pieces were struck of this issue and the vast majority of known examples grade only VF or EF. In Mint State, the 1839 is rare, and Choice Uncirculated or better examples are very rare. Paramount 2/73: 1068 is the finest specimen I have ever seen, although Milas: 431 was close and Eliasberg: 408 was also a Choice example. This piece is not quite as nice as those three, but it is still one of the finer known examples of the date, possibly even in the Condition Census.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1839-C HALF EAGLE



945. **1839-C, Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck with superb greenish-gold and copper toning. Large cud on the rim, "as made", above STA in STATES. Highly lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces that have light to moderate hairlines and a few contact marks. Obtained as part of an 18 coin lot in the 1954 Farouk sale, Lot 249. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1839-C is much more rare than the 1839 in the preceding lot. Only 17,205 pieces were struck and it is estimated that only 100-120 examples still exist, nearly all of them in the VF and EF grades. In Mint State, this issue is extremely rare, easily High R-7, and this piece undoubtedly ranks among the top 3 or 4, distinctly surpassed only by the Elrod-Garrett: 480 example. It is similar in overall quality to Milas: 432 and Eliasberg: 409.



946. 1839-D, Almost Uncirculated. A lovely, lustrous specimen with semi-prooflike fields and beautiful rich gold color with considerable copper shades around the letters and devices. The mintmark is above the 39 in the date, a little to

the left of being centered. This coin has very little real wear, just a trace of friction on the highest points, but there are numerous light contact marks and hairlines in the fields. There is also a scratch from the lowest shaft of the arrow toward the stop between A and D. Purchased in 1954 at the Farouk sale as part of Lot 249. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

This issue is similar in overall rarity to the 1839-C, perhaps just a little less rare. Only 18,939 pieces were struck and the 1839-D rates as a Rarity-4 issue in terms of overall rarity, and High R-5, possibly Low R-6, in AU or better condition. Milas: 433 is the finest I have seen, with Scanlon: 2275 of more or less equal quality; at most three or four others exist in Mint State. This specimen, although not quite Uncirculated, is still one of the finest known examples, especially when overall appearance and eye appeal are considered.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1840 HALF EAGLE

Broad Mill Variety, One Of The Finest Known



947. 1840, Broad Mill. Choice Uncirculated. Very sharply struck with full mint luster, a broad inner border, and gorgeous copper tinged yellow gold color. There are traces of a prooflike surface around the head of Liberty, and light striations throughout the fields running diagonally from upper left to lower right. A few light contact marks and abrasions are noted in the fields, none serious. There are what appear to be light file marks on the broad border and rim from the 1st to the 3rd stars, and also from the 9th to the 12th stars. It is difficult to say for sure, but perhaps the edge was lightly filed to remove a partial wire rim. There are several small reverse rim nicks and also signs of apparent filing of the rim on the upper reverse above and slightly to the left and right of STATES OF. This filing is easy to miss, and I must admit that it escaped my notice

when I first looked at the coin because I was so impressed with the overall appearance of the piece. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The diameter of this coin is 22.3 millimeters, within tolerance of the standard for the 1834-1839 issues, i.e. 22.5 millimeters. The Narrow Mill variety of 1840 (see next lot) was struck with the diameter reduced to a standard of 21.6 millimeters. As a date, the 1840 is less rare than 1839, although as a variety, the 1840 Broad Mill Half Eagle is certainly more rare than the 1839. Most known specimens are only VF or EF, occasionally AU. Mint State examples are very rare, at least High R-6, if not Low R-7, and only a relative few of those grade Choice Uncirculated or better. The Milas: 434, Eliasberg: 411 coin is the nicest I have seen, although this Pittman-Farouk-Green coin would be better if it were not for the unfortunate file marks on the rim.

UNCIRCULATED 1840 HALF EAGLE

Narrow Mill Variety



948. 1840, Narrow Mill. Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Diameter 21.6 millimeters, the diameter of all Half Eagles after 1840. The rims are slightly rounded or beveled as on all known examples of this variety. Very well struck with lustrous, semi-prooflike surfaces and rich orange gold color. A few light bagmarks and hairlines are scat-

tered throughout the fields. Very scarce in all grades and very rare in full Mint State. Milas: 435 is the finest example known to me, although this coin and several others are nearly comparable to it. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1840-C HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



949. 1840-C, Choice Uncirculated. Broad Mill, as are all 1840-C Half Eagles. (Rumors of a Narrow Mill version of this issue are unsubstantiated and, in my opinion, incorrect.) This coin is amazing, almost certainly the finest known example of this rare issue. It is very sharply struck with a square edge, high wire rim, and partially prooflike fields. All of the stars are fully struck to their central points. There is a slight planchet depression on the chin and some weakness at the vertical hair curl on the neck. Light striations, running more or less vertically, are seen on both the obverse and reverse, mostly on the reverse. The fields have only a few very light contact marks, and the color of the coin is a beautiful yellow and coppery gold color. A die break runs from the reverse rim through the I in AMERICA, then to the tips of the top two arrowheads, and continues to the lowest feathers of the eagle's right wing. Curiously, there is a little area of die scratches or die file marks by the denticles closest to each obverse star; they vary slightly, the most prominent at the 13th star. In the denticles below the date, appear what may be the tops of

numerals from the date that were originally punched in the wrong position. Just the barest tops of them are visible, and it is difficult to tell exactly what they are, but it looks to be the top of a 1 and the top of an 8. If this is the case, this is one of the most sensational misplaced dates in U.S. numismatics. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1840-C is a rare and very underrated issue. It is decidedly more rare in all grades than the 1839-C and the 1841-C to which it is typically compared. It is also more rare than any of the D Mint Half Eagle issues from 1839-1841, and in terms of population rarity, it is easily High Rarity-4, possibly even Low R-5. Most known examples of the 1840-C grade only VF or EF, and even in AU, this issue is very rare. Prior to the appearance here of this Choice specimen, the finest example to appear on the market was Milas: 436, James Stack: 1089. That particular coin was a minimally Uncirculated specimen, and certainly not of the same high quality as this example. Since this coin is from the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection, it is most likely the specimen Walter Breen referred to in his monograph when he noted, "Possibly the best is a Col. Green coin pictured above G.H. Hall 1914."



950. 1840-D, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Medium greenish-gold and copper color with the copper shades

particularly evident on the face and hair curls. Edge nick and abrasion on the rim by the 1st star. Light to moderate hairlines, marks and minor abrasions throughout the fields, but some evidence of the original prooflike surface still remains. Die lump at the denticles below the 13th star. This is the Narrow Mill variety with a diameter of 21.6 millimeters. Rare in all grades and virtually unobtainable in full Mint State. In terms of population rarity, this coin is a solid R-4 and Uncirculated examples are Low R-7. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

EXTREMELY RARE 1840-O HALF EAGLE IN CHOICE MINT STATE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



951. 1840-O, Choice Uncirculated. Narrow Mill variety, but with a diameter of 22.0 millimeters, slightly above the standard. Medium oval O mintmark centered above VE. Very sharply struck with superb luster, semi-prooflike fields, and fabulous coppery gold color. There is a trace of carbon in the milling below the date, another carbon spot above the head, one in the denticles above M in AMERICA, and another on the rim above R. A light hairline in the field in front of the face runs diagonally from the upper lip toward the area between the 2nd and 3rd stars. There are a number of raised die scratches throughout the fields, especially noticeable around the date and the lowest stars. This coin has a fantastic overall appearance and

may be the finest known 1840-O Half Eagle. At the very least, it is tied for that honor with the Milas coin, but I think that this piece is actually a little higher grade. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

Of the three major varieties of 1840-O Half Eagle, this is the most common. In the lower grades from VF to EF, it is only moderately scarce. AU coins, however, are rare and Mint State examples are, for all practical purposes, unavailable. In terms of overall population rarity, I consider the 1840-O to be Rarity-4, but Uncirculated specimens are High R-7. In Choice Uncirculated, this particular coin may well be unique, and it is certainly one of the prize coins in the Pittman Collection of Liberty Head Half Eagles.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1841 HALF EAGLE



952. **1841, Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Lustrous, semi-prooflike fields and beautiful light orange gold color. Light die striations from die polishing run vertically on the reverse; lighter die striations are also seen on the obverse, mostly around the figure of Liberty, behind the head, and below the bust. There is one long hairline on the cheek as well as an abrasion nearby, and there are several other light contact marks and hairlines in the fields. There is a copper toning streak running vertically down the neck from the earlobe through the hair curl. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

With only 15,833 Half Eagles struck in 1841, the issue is obviously rare, and I rate it Rarity-4 in terms of overall population rarity. In all grades, the 1841 is much less often seen than either the 1839 or 1840. It is also more rare in terms of total number of specimens known than such highly regarded issues as 1841-C, 1841-D and 1840-O, as well as 1839-C, 1839-D, 1840-C and 1840-D. However, it is not quite as rare as any of those mintmarked issues in strictly Uncirculated condition, and several very choice examples are known, the finest being Milas: 439, followed closely by Auction '89: 1391. James A. Stack: 1092 and this example are in the next tier. Still, in Mint State, I think that the 1841 Half Eagle qualifies for a High Rarity-6 rating, and may even be Low R-7.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1841-C HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



953. **1841-C, Choice Uncirculated**. Very sharply struck with a prominent high wire rim, especially on the right obverse. Every star is fully struck to its center point, and the hair curls around Liberty's face, including the vertical curl down the side of her neck, are sharply defined. The surfaces are highly lustrous, with light to medium greenish-gold color that has just a trace of an orange tint. There are

only a few contact marks and light hairlines in the fields, as well as several minor marks on or near the rim above STATES. The overall appearance of this coin is outstanding and it may be deserving of an even higher grade. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.



953 continued.

The 1841-C Half Eagle is very similar in terms of overall rarity to the 1839-C with a population rarity rating of Rarity-4. Mint State examples of this issue do not appear to be as rare as those of 1839-C, however, and several fairly choice examples are known including Bareford: 165; Auction '79: 1237; Scanlon: 2281; Milas: 440; Bolt: 941; and the Elrod Collection example. I have examined all of these specimens at length and feel that the Pittman specimen offered in this lot is at least the equal of the best of them, and possibly even the finest.

There is a great story associated with this coin that provided JJP with a lot of pleasure for many years. At one time, the coin was in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection, and photographs of all the Green Half Eagles were taken and placed in a beautiful album that has long been in the possession of the New York numismatic firm, Stack's, who sold the Green Half Eagle Collection largely intact to King Farouk in the 1940's. Apparently, Walter Breen reviewed this album and saw the picture of this coin. Because of shadows on the photo, the C mintmark looked like an O to him, and so Breen mistook it for an example of the legendary (but non-existent) 1841-O Half Eagle. When he wrote his monograph on U.S. Half Eagles, which was a ground breaking and important work of lasting influence, he wrote, in part, the following about the "1841-O" Half Eagle. "Two specimens known. (1) Ex. R.L. Speice. (2) Ex. W. H. Woodin; Waldo Newcomer; E.H.R. Green; Stack's (1943); King Farouk. It went in a large lot of Half Eagles of the period in the Sotheby sale of the Palace Collection of Egypt in 1954, unrecognized as a rarity, and was bought by J.J. Pittman. I knew Farouk had the coin, as I had seen the photograph in the Stack inventory of the Col. Green half eagles, but I had no opportunity to go to Cairo...and thus the second of the two greatest rarities Col. Green ever had of this denomination slipped into unknown hands. Rumor hath it

that this second coin was later sold for \$50,000." This was a legitimate sounding bit of research, believed by virtually everyone (including me).

When I was doing the research for my own book on U.S. Half Eagles in the 1970's, I asked JJP about the information contained in the Breen monograph. JJP confirmed that he had purchased the lot in question at the Farouk sale, but would neither confirm nor deny whether the lot contained an 1841-O. He only smiled his well known ear-to-ear grin and said, "It pays to look at every lot." Later, I contacted my good friends, Harvey, Benjamin and Norman Stack, and asked if I could review the photos of the Col. Green collection of Half Eagles for the book I was writing. They graciously agreed, and sent me the album. When I reached the photographs for the year 1841, I saw the 1841, 1841-C, and 1841-D, but no 1841-O. I looked again, more carefully, and then saw what Breen had obviously seen; the C mintmark was in shadow and looked like an O. Of course, a C Mint coin has a very different look from an O Mint coin, but no matter. That little shadow was enough for Breen to create a whole story and bogus pedigree history, a pedigree that included John Jay Pittman, and JJP dearly loved it. After further research allowed me to debunk the myth of the existence of the 1841-O Half Eagle (the Speice coin proved to be a fake), I spoke once more about the matter with JJP. He again flashed his famous smile and merely said, "I always knew there was no such thing as an 1841-O Half Eagle, but I had so much fun going along with Breen's story."

Note: Of course, if any bidders would like to bid on this coin as if it were an "1841-O", I will be happy to accept their bids. I will even do my best to talk Harvey Stack into providing the winning bidder with a copy of the original Col. Green photo to "prove" he or she has a real "1841-O" Half Eagle!

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1841-D HALF EAGLE



954. **1841-D, Uncirculated. Small D mintmark.** Sharply struck with full mint luster and attractive light yellow gold and copper color. Some very minor hairlines and contact marks in the fields, but nothing serious. Traces of a prooflike surface around the eagle and some of the letters on the reverse. The date is repunched with just a trace of the original date showing below the first 1, the bottom curve of the 8, the bottom upright of the 4 as well as the lower edge of the horizontal bar, and both at the bottom

of the second 1 and the tip of its upper left serif. Purchased from the Farouk sale in 1954 as part of Lot 249. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1841-D Half Eagle is similar in terms of population rarity to the 1839-D and 1840-D, as well as the 1841-C, but it is more available in Mint State than any of those dates. Several Choice to Gem quality examples are known including the Milas: 441, Stack: 1094 coin, which is perhaps the finest. Overall population rarity is definitely R-4, while Mint State examples are High R-6, possibly even Low R-7.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1842 HALF EAGLE

One Of Just Two Known, The Other In The Smithsonian Institution



955. 1842, Small Date, Small Letters. Proof, nearly in the Choice category despite light hairlines throughout the fields, including one fairly prominent one in the field near the 2nd star. The coin has brilliant, deep mirror fields, and attractive coppery gold toning. There is a die break that literally bisects the reverse; it runs from the bottom rim through the left side of the E in FIVE to the eagle, then exits from the top of the eagle's head past the right side of the T to the rim. Directly below the lowest arrow feather is a lint mark in the field; another lint mark appears at the right side of E in AMERICA. There is also an unfinished area between the top of the E in AMERICA and the denticles. JJP purchased this coin from the

Farouk sale in 1954 along with 17 other coins in Lot 249. Although he was happy to have all the others, particularly the C and D Mint coins, this coin is the sole reason he purchased the lot in the first place. All 18 pieces were from the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

There are only two known Proof 1842 Half Eagles, and this Pittman specimen is the only one of the two that will ever be available to collectors. Following is the pedigree information on these two known Proofs.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;
Farouk: 249; William H. Woodin (displayed at the 1914
ANS exhibit); Thomas Cleneay: 619.



956. 1842, Small Date, Small Letters. Extremely Fine or better. Light to medium greenish-gold and orange toning. Frosty and well struck with light to moderate bagmarks and hairlines throughout the fields. The date has been repunched at the 8 and the 4. On the 4, it is most noticeable below the horizontal bar at the left end, and just below the base; on

the 8, the repunching is less evident, just barely noticeable below the 8 and inside the lower loop. A die break on the reverse connects ERICA of AMERICA and another runs from the top of C to the A, then to the stop and the tops of FIVE D, and finally through the first four letters of UNITED. This is a very rare and unappreciated issue, much more rare than the 1839-1841 P Mint issues and any that follow until the Civil War period. Milas: 442 is by far the finest known (Gem Uncirculated). Purchased by JJP at the Thomas Melish sale conducted by Abe Kosoff in April 1956. The coin was offered as Lot 1993a and brought a rather remarkable \$82.50, which was more than the Gem BU 1864-S realized, a coin that later sold for six figures in the 1987 Norweb sale. It is quite amazing how perceptions of value can change so dramatically in just over 40 years.

EXTREMELY RARE AND UNDERRATED 1842 LARGE LETTERS HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Only Known Mint State Example



957. 1842, Small Date, Large Letters. Uncirculated. A magnificent, fully struck coin with partially prooflike fields, outstanding luster, and gorgeous, coppery gold color. There are a few light hairlines and marks in the fields and on the devices. This coin is struck from the same obverse die as the preceding Small Date, Small Letters variety with the repunching on the 8 and 4 in the date. The planchet is lightly striated from die polishing, noticeable above Liberty's hair and around the figure and also on the reverse running diagonally from upper

left to lower right. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

This is one of my favorite Liberty Head Half Eagle issues and it is definitely among the rarest and most underrated. In terms of overall population rarity, the 1842 Large Letters is a High Rarity-5, and it is seen much less often than almost any of the more highly regarded branch mint issues of the 1840's and 1850's. Nearly all of the relatively few known examples grade only VF or EF. Even in AU, this is a major rarity, and this Pittman-Farouk-Green specimen may well be the only known Mint State example.

VERY RARE 1842-C SMALL DATE HALF EAGLE



958. 1842-C, Small Date, Small Letters. Very Fine. Vivid copper and gold color with violet and blue highlights around the periphery. Sharply struck with some prooflike luster remaining. Small depression, probably "as made", on the obverse rim between the 10th and 11th stars; there are several tiny nicks on the rim as well. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

This variety was struck for only a very short period in early 1842, and it is thought that the mintage was only 4,595 pieces out of the 28,184 Half Eagles struck at the Charlotte Mint in 1842. The 1842-C Small Date Half Eagle is one of the rarest of all Charlotte Mint coins, surpassed only by the exceedingly rare 1849-C Open Wreath Gold Dollar. At most 40-50 examples are known, putting this issue solidly at the Rarity-5 level. Nearly all of the known examples grade only VF or EF and, to the best of my knowledge, the Stanley Elrod example (purchased as NERCA 1/82: 1407) is the only Mint State specimen known. Even in AU, this issue is a great rarity and is easily Rarity-7.

HIGH GRADE 1842-D \$5 GOLD

Small Date, Small Letters Variety



959. 1842-C, Large Date, Small Letters. Very Fine. Light greenish-gold color with a hint of orange around the date and some of the stars and reverse letters. Partially prooflike fields under considerable rubbing and hairlines. There is a gouge in the field above the eagle's head below the second T in STATES. A rare issue, usually available only in VF or EF grades. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.



960. 1842-D, Small Date, Small Letters. Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous, with brilliant yellow gold color, and a few light hairlines and handling marks in the fields. There is a planchet imperfection, "as made", near the denticles below 42 of the date. This issue is very scarce in all grades. Most known examples are only VF or EF, and AU or better specimens like this one are very rare. Overall, I would say that this issue is Low R-4 in terms of population rarity. In AU it is R-6 and, in Mint State, R-7. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

VERY RARE AND UNDERRATED 1842-D HALF EAGLE

Large Date, Large Letters Variety



961. **1842-D, Large Date, Large Letters. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Medium greenish-gold color with a slight copper hue. Very sharply struck with lustrous, semi-prooflike fields. There are a few tiny edge nicks, as well as one noticeable abrasion across the face and earlobe; the fields also have some light to moderate hairlines and abrasions. There is also an abrasion on the top two arrowheads, as well as one dig on the tip of the middle arrowhead. Purchased as part of Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

As a variety, the 1842-D Large Date, Large Letters Half Eagle is considerably more rare than the 1842-D Small Date, Small Letters variety. In terms of population rarity, it is at least High Rarity-4, possibly even Low Rarity-5. Nearly all known examples grade only VF or EF and, in AU, this issue is a solid R-7. To the best of my knowledge, it is unknown in full Mint State. Without a doubt, this is one of the rarest D Mint Half Eagles, surpassed in population rarity only by the 1861-D, and at the top of the list in terms of condition rarity.



962. **1842-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Small Date, Small Letters, as are all examples of this issue. Softly struck on the hair curls around the face and on the eagle's legs, talons and the arrowheads. Vivid coppery gold color with generous splashes of violet around the periphery. There is an abrasion at the leaf tips below UNI and a number of other light marks and hairlines in the fields, most of them on the reverse. This specimen is about average quality for an 1842-O; above this grade level the issue is very rare, and the only Mint State coin I have seen is the Milas-Eliasberg-Earle specimen. Very similar in overall rarity to the 1847-O (just a little less rare), and equally underrated. Both are harder to find than most, if not all, of the more popular C and D Mint issues from 1838-1861. This is the final coin from the remarkable large lot of rare Half Eagles that JJP purchased as Lot 249 from the Farouk sale in 1954 for \$514. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

MINT STATE 1843 HALF EAGLE



963. **1843, Uncirculated,** the obverse nearly in the Choice category. Sharply struck with lustrous, partially prooflike fields, and slightly hazy orange gold color. There are some hairlines and abrasions above and to the right of the eagle's head, but the fields are otherwise quite clean with only a few light hairlines under the haze; the color is very attractive. There is a nick on the obverse rim between the 2nd and 3rd star. Repunching is visible on the 4 of the date, seen only at the lower right side of the horizontal bar. This is the second most common date of the decade after the 1847 and Uncirculated examples are only moderately rare. Purchased from Stack's 1958 Metropolitan New York Convention sale, Lot 1539, for \$16.



964. 1843-C, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. This coin has the Small Letters reverse, i.e. the old reverse used from 1839 to 1842, as do all examples of this issue. Generally well struck for an 1843-C, although with some weakness on the hair curls around the face and neck, as well as on the eagle's leg feathers and the arrow feathers. Light greenish-gold color with just a hint of copper, and lustrous, semi-prooflike fields that have only a minimal number of light bagmarks, hairlines and abrasions. Rare in all grades; probably R-4 overall, and extremely rare (High R-7) in Mint State. Milas:449 is by far the finest known to me, and I have seen just two other Mint State examples. Purchased from a Mr. Pollard, 11/13/55, for \$27.50.



965. 1843-D, Very Fine. Large mintmark as used on 1844-D (and later), as opposed to the small D seen on the issues from 1840 to 1842. Large Letters reverse variety, as are all 1843-D Half Eagles, in contrast to 1843-C Half Eagles, all of which have the Small Letters reverse. This piece has considerable wear and light greenish-gold and copper color. The fields are heavily abraded, as are the rims. This is one of the most common D Mint Half Eagles, and is fairly available in grades of EF or less. It is however, extremely rare in Mint State (Low R-7). Purchased from Mr. Pollard, 11/13/55, for \$15.



966. 1843-O, Small Letters. Very Fine. Dull greenish-gold and orange color. Prominent edge nick on the obverse above the 8th star, along with several other lesser ones on both sides. Light hairlines as well as moderate marks and abrasions throughout the fields. Very scarce in all grades. Purchased from Stack's Metropolitan New York Convention sale in May 1958, Lot 1242, for \$19.

967. 1843-O, Large Letters. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Dull medium greenish-gold and orange color. Some light hairlines, marks and abrasions in the fields, including several prominent ones in the left obverse field and on the face. Very scarce in all grades, about on a par with the preceding. Purchased as Lot 2418 from Stack's 1959 Metropolitan Convention sale for \$41.

968. 1844, Very Fine. Greenish-gold and orange color with violet toning around the border. Moderately marked and hairlined with several prominent abrasions on the reverse rim.



969. 1844-C, Extremely Fine. Medium greenish-gold and orange color. Moderate to heavy marks and abrasions in the fields, and several parallel scrapes on the eagle's right wing by the shield. There is a prominent edge nick or cut on the reverse rim above and between UN of UNITED. There is also a tiny die break that runs from the eagle's right wing through the right foot of A2 to the rim. Softly struck on the head of Liberty, particularly the hair curls around the face; also weak on the eagle's right talons and arrow feathers. Purchased as Lot 2420 from Stack's 1959 Metropolitan New York Numismatic Convention sale for \$53.

Without a doubt, this is one of the most difficult to find Half Eagles from the Charlotte Mint, particularly in high grade. Almost all known specimens grade only VF, with relatively few even reaching the EF level. In terms of overall rarity, this issue is at least High R-4, possibly Low R-5. In AU, the 1844-C is extremely rare, R-7, and only Bareford: 166 and Milas: 455 have any pretensions to being full Mint State, although a few others have been called Uncirculated in the distant past.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1844-D HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



970. **1844-D, Choice Uncirculated.** Certainly one of the finest examples known, perhaps even the finest. This coin is very sharply struck with a partial wire rim and full detail on the head of Liberty and on every portion of the eagle. All of the stars are fully struck with each radial line well defined. The surfaces are very lustrous and the fields are partially prooflike; the coin has absolutely superb orange and greenish-gold toning with a few iridescent highlights, and only a few tiny marks and abrasions. On the truncation of the neck, below and to the left of the lowest hair curl, is a minor planchet imperfection, present when the coin was struck. The 1 in the date has been repunched with the repunching clearly evident at the top of the numeral. Purchased by JJP for \$60 from Stack's January

1958 sale, Lot 1875, where it was very accurately described as, "Choice Uncirculated, with full mint luster, undoubtedly one of the finest known."

All grades considered, the 1844-D is one of the most common of all Dahlonega Mint Half Eagles. Examples are readily available in VF and EF grades, and AU examples are also seen with some frequency. However, in Uncirculated condition, the 1844-D is very rare, at least High R-6 and possibly even Low R-7. Most of these few Mint State pieces are no better than minimally Uncirculated though, and Choice Mint State or better examples are of the greatest rarity. Milas: 456 was one Choice example and this is another, just slightly better. I do not know of any others at this level, but one or more may exist; Auction '84: 1336 (Arthur Montgomery) and Bareford: 167 were certainly close.

971. **1844-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Rather dull with light greenish-gold color. Delicate obverse stars, especially stars 5 through 9.

972. **1845, Very Fine.** Greenish-gold and orange color, light to moderate contact marks and abrasions throughout the fields. A tiny break on the reverse runs from a denticle past the left side of the E in UNITED to the eagle's head. There are clash marks around the eagle, especially evident from the eagle's lower beak to the top of the left wing.



973. **1845-D, Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous, but with light to moderate contact marks throughout the fields. Attractive, medium greenish-gold color with just a hint of orange. A

die break runs from the left side of the right upright of the U in UNITED to the stop to the left of U. Another tiny die break connects ICA of AMERICA to the D in the denomination; the D is also connected at the upper left serif to the E in FIVE. Comparable in overall rarity to the 1843-D and 1844-D, and rare only in this grade and higher. Purchased from the Dr. Russell H. Renz Collection sale (Mehl, 3/48), Lot 3757, for \$15.50.



974. **1845-O, Extremely Fine.** Dull orange and greenish-gold color. Numerous light hairlines throughout the fields and some spots on Liberty's face. Purchased on 5/14/58 for \$36.50 from R. Salisbury, who earlier had purchased it from a Hollinbeck sale.

975. 1846, Large Date. Very Fine. Light orange gold color. Considerable friction and dulling in the fields with some light to moderate abrasions on both sides.

976. 1846, Small Date. Fine to Very Fine. Dull orange gold color. Much more scarce than the Large Date variety.



977. 1846-C, Very Fine. Pale yellow and coppery gold color; moderate abrasions throughout the fields. Softly struck on the hair around Liberty's face, and on the arrow feathers and right talons. Rare in all grades, almost comparable to the 1844-C, and certainly one of the most difficult to locate Charlotte Mint Half Eagles. The Elrod-Eliasberg: 440 coin is the only Choice Uncirculated example I have seen, and only 2-3 others exist that are unequivocally Mint State. Purchased by JJP from the New Netherlands 50th sale, 12/7/57, Lot 848, for \$49.



978. 1846-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Double D mintmark. A lustrous and very sharply struck specimen with rich greenish-gold color and just a hint of light orange. Light contact marks in the fields and moderate hairlines on both obverse and reverse. The 1846-D/D is very scarce in all grades and Mint State examples are extremely rare, although a few Choice or better specimens are known. Purchased as Uncirculated from Numismatic Gallery's 1946 "World's Greatest Collection" sale, Lot 508, for \$27.50.

This is a very interesting, but not particularly rare variety, where the D mintmark was widely double punched, the first D punched high under the stem into the arrow feathers, the second and final D punched into the proper space between the stem and VE, but overlapping the original D. This is perhaps the most dramatic double punched mintmark in U.S. gold coinage. The only rival is the double S on the 1856-S Type II Gold Dollar, but on that issue, the earlier misspunched S is often weak, and only portions of it are visible. On this issue, however, both D's are always very visible and it seems as though little or no effort was made to efface the misplaced D prior to punching in the second, properly positioned mintmark.



979. 1846-D, Extremely Fine. Normal mintmark. Considerable copper toning in the letters with shades of violet and blue near the borders. Well struck, but without much original luster. There are some light hairlines and contact marks in the fields as well as a few edge abrasions. This was struck from the same reverse die as the 1845-D in Lot 973 with the die breaks at the U of UNITED and D in the denomination. Much more rare than the D/D variety, but not always recognized as such. Purchased from Stack's Farish Baldenhofer sale in November 1955, Lot 1283, for \$25.



980. 1846-O, Very Fine. Medium greenish-gold and orange color. Considerable dulling of the surfaces from friction, light marks and hairlines. Several edge nicks, including a rather prominent one above NI of UNITED. A very scarce issue in all grades. Purchased at Abe Kosoff's sale of the William Donlon Collection in November 1956, Lot 1379, for \$28.50.

Enlarged Photographs

Most of the photographs in this catalogue have been enlarged to a minimum of 30 millimeters. The photographs of certain featured coins have been increased in diameter to 45 millimeters or more.

MAGNIFICENT GEM UNCIRCULATED 1847 HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



981. **1847, Gem Uncirculated.** This is a simply incredible specimen that must rank as one of the finest business strike Liberty Head Half Eagles of this era. It is a Gem of the highest order, with superb luster and color, a full strike, and nearly immaculate surfaces. On the reverse, there is a large area of copper and violet discoloration on the eagle and in the field directly below it. This is a natural result of copper in the alloy migrating to the surface, and does not really constitute a defect although, like many things in life, some will love it and others will not. In the field below the lowest arrow and right talon there is a carbon spot; another is at the upper left corner of the shield. There is a die break running from a denticle through the right side of the I in FIVE to the talon; another runs from the top of the eagle's head through the left side of the second T in STATES to the rim. Both the obverse and reverse fields have many light striations, as well as a number of raised die scratches around the stars and letters. On the obverse, this is most noticeable at stars 2 and 3, as well as star 11. On the reverse, the die scratches are particularly noticeable above TE in UNITED. In addition to the large copper toning area on the reverse, there is a small copper spot on the obverse in the hair below TY of LIBERTY. A few tiny abrasions between Liberty's head and the 7th,

8th and 9th stars are really the only marks on the coin worth noting, although there is also one light hairline into the field near the 2nd star. On a lesser coin, these marks would not even be deserving of mention because they are really very minor in nature. However, on a coin so nearly pristine and perfect as this one, they serve not only to identify the coin for the future, but also to indicate just how close to perfection this specimen really is.

This coin was purchased by JJP at the Farouk sale in 1954 as part of Lot 251, a 13 coin lot. The lot brought 150 Egyptian Pounds or approximately \$432, to which was added a 5% Government tax, for a total of \$454. All of the lots from 982-994 that follow, except Lot 986, were part of this one large lot. Prior to being owned by King Farouk, all of these Half Eagles were part of the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1847 Half Eagle is the most common date Half Eagle of the 1840's and, in fact, is probably the second most common of the No Motto type after the 1861. In grades below Mint State, the 1847 is very common, and even in the lower Uncirculated grades, the date is only scarce, not rare. However, in Gem condition, the 1847 is extremely rare and no more than 6-8 examples are known; the specimen offered here, the Pittman-Farouk-Col. Green coin, may well be the finest. I certainly have never seen its equal.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1847-C HALF EAGLE

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



982. **1847-C, Choice Uncirculated.** Date high in field, 1 very close to the bust, right corner of 7 touching it. A very sharply struck specimen with medium greenish-gold color and highly lustrous, partially prooflike fields, the prooflike nature most visible around the eagle and within the shield on the reverse. There is one carbon spot on Liberty's jaw, and one small abrasion in the field between the 5th and 6th stars. On the reverse, there are a few small abrasions above the eagle's head, as well as one fine hairline that follows the contour of its head and neck. The quality and overall look of this coin are outstanding, and it certainly ranks as one of the finest 1847-C Half Eagles

that I have seen, more or less equal to Milas: 468 that was sold in 1995. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

In 1847, Half Eagle production at the Charlotte Mint increased dramatically, with the mintage of the 1847-C almost double that of any previous year. As a result of this relatively high mintage (84,151 struck), the 1847-C is a common date by C Mint standards, and it is not very difficult to locate one in VF or EF condition. In AU, the 1847-C Half Eagle is rare, but still obtainable with a little searching. However, in Mint State condition, the issue is extremely rare, High R-7, with only 4-6 examples known.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED
1847-D HALF EAGLE

983. **1847-D, Uncirculated.** Rich orange gold color and lustrous surfaces that have only a few light hairlines on the reverse, and some light hairlines and minor abrasions on the obverse. There is one nick on the obverse rim near the 5th star. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

From the standpoint of total number of pieces known, the 1847-D is considerably more rare than the 1847-C, as well as the D Mint Half Eagle issues from 1843-1846, and is Low R-4 in terms of population rarity. However, it is somewhat more often available in Mint State than the 1847-C, as well as the 1843-D and 1844-D, and I feel that it is High Rarity-6 with respect to Uncirculated specimens. Nearly all the Mint State specimens I have seen were comparable to this coin, however, and I do not know of any example that would grade better than Choice.

UNDERRATED HIGH GRADE
1847-O \$5 GOLD

984. **1847-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous and well struck with partially prooflike fields and light orange gold color. There are some light hairlines and a few minor abrasions, but nothing serious. The date is placed well to the left with the 1 firmly touching the bust near the tip. The mintmark is weak at the bottom from not being strongly punched into the die. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

In my opinion, this issue is the rarest O Mint Half Eagle, just slightly more rare than the 1842-O. It is Rarity-5 in terms of population rarity, and R-8 with respect to AU specimens. I have never seen or heard of a strictly Uncirculated example, although Milas: 470 was close. For an 1847-O Half Eagle, this Pittman specimen is unusually high grade and in the middle of the Condition Census. One could easily spend years in a futile search for a finer or even comparable example.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE PROOF 1848 HALF EAGLE

The Only Collectible Specimen



985. **1848, Choice Proof.** Similar in general appearance to the Proof 1842 Half Eagle in Lot 955, but of slightly higher overall quality because, although this coin has a number of light hairlines, they are less noticeable than are the hairlines on the 1842. This lovely Proof is fully struck with deep mirror fields and attractive medium yellow gold color. There is one tiny mark on the obverse rim above the 8th star, but the coin is otherwise free of nicks and abrasions. On the reverse, there are a number of die scratches or file marks in the left field at the eagle's leg feathers and the three lower wing feathers closest to the body. This is the same reverse die that was used to strike the Proof Half Eagles of 1844-1846, all of which are in the Pittman Collection. To the best of my knowledge, this die was not used for business strikes of any date, just the Proofs of these four years (and possibly the unique 1847 Proof in the Smithsonian Institution which I have not examined.) The date is centered in the field between the bust and the denticles with the 1 of the date slightly lower than the other three numerals; there is a faint trace of repunching on the 48. This is the one coin that JJP most wanted when he purchased Lot 251 from the Farouk sale

in 1954. At the time he purchased the lot, the other 12 coins were merely a bonus to JJP. Some bonus!

Only two specimens of the Proof 1848 Half Eagle are known and this is the only example in private hands. The two known Proofs are as follows.

1. Smithsonian Institution.
2. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;
Farouk: 251; William H. Woodin.

This coin is one of 11 Proof Half Eagles of the 1830's and 1840's in the John Jay Pittman Collection; these 11 coins represent 10 different years, and for 6 of those years, the Pittman Collection contains the only collectible specimens. No other American collection, in any era, ever had nearly as many Proof Half Eagles from this period. (The legendary King Farouk Collection contained 12 Proof Half Eagles dated prior to 1850, four from the 1820's and eight from the 1830's and 1840's combined.) These coins are so incredibly rare (only 1-3 pieces known of any date other than the 1834 Classic Head) that even the greatest collections in history had only one, or at most a few, Proof Half Eagles of these two decades, if they had any at all. Of all JJP's numismatic achievements, the acquisition of 11 Proof Half Eagles from this early period stands as his greatest accomplishment. It is likely a feat that will never again be equaled, or even approached!

986. 1848, Very Fine. Dull orange and greenish-gold color. Light to moderate handling marks in the fields. Purchased for \$23 from Stack's 10/17/59 Wilson-Reuter Sale, Lot 974.



987. 1848-C, Extremely Fine. A partially prooflike, well struck specimen with rich orange gold color. Sharp nick on the obverse rim to the right of the date, and light handling marks throughout the fields. Softly struck on the hair curls around the face as usual, as well as on the eagle's talons and the arrow feathers. Great color and luster. Purchased as part of Lot 251 of the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

This is a very scarce date in all grades, more so than the 1847-C, and is a solid Rarity-4 in terms of population rarity. Most known examples are only VF or EF, and in AU the 1848-C is easily R-6. Only 3-4 Mint State examples are known, none finer than Elrod-Eliasberg: 449.

VERY RARE MINT STATE 1848-D HALF EAGLE



988. 1848-D, Uncirculated. Very sharply struck, except for the vertical hair curl below Liberty's ear. Exceptional luster and attractive coppery gold color; light to moderate contact marks and abrasions throughout the fields. All of the stars are smaller and thinner than usual, especially stars 3 and 4 and, to a lesser extent, star 5. There are light clash marks on the obverse. A thin die break runs from the rim past the right side of R in AMERICA and connects the points of the top two arrowheads to the lower right wing; another runs from the rim through the left side of A in STATES to the top of the eagle's beak. There are many light striations in the reverse field and several minor die breaks connect various letters to the rim. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the 1954 Farouk sale. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1848-D is very scarce in all grades and the typically available example is only VF or EF. Overall, it is more rare than the 1848-C, as well as the D Mint issues from 1843-1847, and is certainly a strong Rarity-4 in terms of population rarity. AU examples are rare, and Mint State specimens are extremely rare, High R-7; I have never seen or heard of one that would grade Choice Uncirculated.



989. 1849, Almost Uncirculated. Partially prooflike fields with attractive medium orange and greenish-gold color. Light to moderate contact marks throughout the fields. There is one sharp rim nick above the first T in STATES. Very scarce and underrated; in fact, this issue is more difficult to locate than many of the mintmarked issues of the era. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1849-C HALF EAGLE



990. 1849-C, Uncirculated. Very slightly bent, due most likely to a sharp blow to the bottom of the truncation of the neck above the 49 in the date. Without this problem, the coin would certainly be in the Condition Census for the issue. The reverse, in particular, is outstanding, fully in the Choice category or even finer. The obverse has some light hairlines and contact marks, but the luster is exceptional and the color is a very appealing light to medium greenish-gold and copper. On the reverse, there is a die break that runs from the rim past the left side of the U to the leaves. The fields are partially prooflike and there is an unfinished area in the space between the eagle's left wing and the leaves on the branch. Light striations are evident in both the obverse and reverse fields. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1849-C is one of the most common of all Charlotte Mint Half Eagles, roughly comparable to the 1847-C, and a little less rare than the 1848-C. In Uncirculated condition, the 1849-C is very rare, but considerably more often available than either the 1847-C or 1848-C; the 1849-C is at best Low R-7 at the Mint State level, possibly "only" High R-6.



991. **1849-D, Almost Uncirculated.** but severely bent, much more so than the 1849-C. It appears this bend was created by a sharp blow to the eagle's left wing, and the coin now has a definite crease. However, it also has great color and luster and just the barest trace of friction on the high points. It is really very close to Mint State, but obviously the fact that it is bent hurts it a great deal. The color is a very rich greenish-gold and orange. The mintmark is high and to the right, touching both the stem and the tip of the arrow feathers. This is a rare date in all grades, comparable to the 1848-D and 1850-D. Mint State examples are extremely rare, mid-R-7. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

992. **1850, Almost Uncirculated.** Very close to Mint State, but the coin has been lightly burnished; it now has light to medium orange gold color. There is a faint scratch on Liberty's neck. The date is large, but weakly punched into the die. Very scarce in any condition and more difficult to find than some of the more popular C and D Mint pieces of the period. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.



993. **1850-C, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Pale yellow gold color with a few copper highlights; light to moderate marks and abrasions in the fields. Strong C mintmark, which is important on this issue because many have the mintmark so weak that it is barely visible. The 1 in the date touches the bust near the tip; the C is low and above the left side of V. This coin was struck using the same reverse die as the 1849-C in Lot 990. It is characterized by a thin die break that runs from the denticle past the left edge of the U to the leaf, and by the unfinished area between the eagle's lower left wing and the leaves. Despite the friction and marks in the fields, this coin still retains much of its original prooflike surface. This is one of the most common C Mint Half Eagles, a little more rare than 1847-C and 1849-C, a bit less rare than 1848-C. In grades above this, the 1850-C is very rare and Mint State examples are R-7. Purchased as part of Lot 251 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.



994. **1850-D, Extremely Fine.** Dull greenish-gold and orange color. Some light hairlines and minor marks throughout the fields. The D mintmark is high in the field, just touching the arrow feathers. It is completely visible, and although not sharp, it is not nearly as weak as it is on many examples. Similar in rarity to the 1848-D and 1849-D. In Mint State, I have seen only two pieces, one in a private Texas collection, and Milas: 480. This is the final coin that was purchased by JJP in 1954 at the Farouk sale as part of Lot 251. The lot consisted of 13 coins (Lots 981-994 in this sale, excluding Lot 986), and realized the equivalent of \$454. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1851 HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



995. **1851, Very Choice Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with fantastic color and full mint luster. The fields on both the obverse and reverse are lightly striated, and yet the coin gives the impression of being partially prooflike. There are a few very light hairlines in the fields, but none of them is significant; the face and neck in particular are very clean. There is a die rust spot on the edge of the truncation of the neck just above the 5 in the date. Generally considered a fairly common issue, but the 1851 is actually rare in Mint State and very rare in Choice Uncirculated condition. This is certainly one of the finest examples known, perhaps even the finest. Purchased privately in Chicago, Illinois, from Robert Faust on 4/28/63 for \$150.

996. 1851-C, Fine. Cleaned, now with light copper toning around the letters and devices. Numerous marks, hairlines and abrasions, some heavy. Purchased for \$28 from David M. Bullowa, date of transaction unknown.

997. 1851-D, Fine to Very Fine. Cleaned, now a dull orange gold color with numerous light hairlines. Gouge in field between the 8th and 9th stars. Mintmark placed well to the right above the right side of the E in FIVE and touching the stem. Purchased from the Farish Baldenhofer sale (Stack's, November 1955), Lot 1297, for \$25.

998. 1851-O, Very Fine. Light orange gold color, minor contact marks throughout the fields. The surfaces are rather dull. Purchased for \$48 from Kreisberg-Schulman's February 1960 sale, Lot 2724.



999. 1852, Uncirculated. A lustrous and very attractive specimen with partially prooflike fields and light reddish-gold color. The planchet is heavily striated on both the obverse and the reverse. Weakly struck on the vertical hair curl below the ear, sharp elsewhere. This date is one of the most common of the No Motto type. Even Mint State examples are only scarce, not rare. Purchased privately from Ralph E. Elser on 11/5/49 for \$15. Elser was a county sheriff in Lima, Ohio. JJP certainly purchased coins from an amazing variety of sources! This coin was formerly in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.



1000. 1852-C, Very Fine. Dull, pale gold color. Many hairlines and marks in the fields. Purchased from a 1957 Abe Kosoff sale, Lot 1212, for \$27.50.



1001. 1852-D, Very Fine. Dull, medium greenish-gold color. Very weak at the borders with little denticle definition. Undoubtedly cleaned at one time. Moderate contact marks and abrasions on both sides.

1002. 1853, Choice Almost Uncirculated, nearly Mint State. Pale coppery gold color. The fields have some light hairlines and a few minor contact marks, and there is just a trace of rubbing on the high points. Obtained 11/15/49 in Lima, Ohio, from a county sheriff, Ralph Elser, for \$15. Previously in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.



1003. 1853-C, Very Fine. Dull, medium orange gold color. Some prooflike luster is still visible under the light haze. Light to moderate contact marks and hairlines throughout the fields. Purchased for \$35 from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA Convention sale, Lot 2236.



1004. 1853-D, Extremely Fine. Medium greenish-gold color. The surfaces are a little hazy due to the coin being stored in a coin envelope for many years, but there is still considerable luster under the haze. Softly struck on the hair curls around the face, the hair bun, and on the obverse stars. One of the most common issues from this popular mint. This coin was Lot 2069 in Abe Kosoff's 1956 Melish sale where it realized \$24.



1005. 1854-C, Very Fine. Dull, light orange gold color. Very weak mintmark. Softly struck on the hair around the face, and on several of the stars. Moderate contact marks throughout the fields. Very scarce, much more so than the 1853-C or the 1854-D. Purchased from R. Salisbury of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for \$51 on 5/25/59.



1006. 1854-D, Extremely Fine or better. Traces of dirt around the date and several of the obverse stars. Weakly struck at the borders (from die deterioration), but sharp on both the head of Liberty and the eagle. Greenish-gold color with just a hint of orange. The surfaces of the coin are slightly dull, but have very few hairlines or marks. More rare than the 1853-D, but still one of the most available Dahlonega Mint Half Eagles. Purchased from B.M. Douglas' MANA sale in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 10/25/57, Lot 174, for \$28.50.

1007. 1854-O, Very Fine. Medium greenish-gold color, considerable mint luster. Softly struck on some of the stars, the hair bun and the hair curls around Liberty's face. Also weak on the eagle's talons and the arrow feathers. Purchased for \$19 from the New Netherlands 50th sale, 12/7/57, Lot 853.



1008. 1855-C, Very Fine. Cleaned, now with dull, medium yellow gold color. Large cud on the reverse rim above AMER of AMERICA. Softly struck on the first four obverse stars, but generally well struck otherwise. Moderate hairlines, contact marks and abrasions throughout the fields. Very scarce, but not nearly as difficult to locate as the 1854-C. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, April 3, 1959, Lot 2663, for \$51.



1009. 1855-D, Very Fine. Dull surfaces with medium greenish-gold and orange color. A light scratch runs from below the 4th star to the mouth, then across the face to the hair curl. There are numerous other light marks and abrasions in the fields consistent with the low grade. The mintmark is bold. Purchased for \$29 from the New Netherlands 50th sale, 12/7/57, Lot 855.

VERY RARE HIGH GRADE 1855-O HALF EAGLE

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



1010. 1855-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated, in fact, very close to full Mint State. Well struck with full mint luster, partially prooflike fields, and attractive natural greenish-gold toning. There are several tiny nicks on the reverse rim, and the fields have some minor contact marks as well as a few faint hairlines. The mintmark is somewhat weak due to the fact that it was not strongly punched into the die. Only 11,100 pieces were struck and, in grades above EF, the 1855-O is a major rarity; this specimen is easily in the Condition Census, i.e. one of the top half dozen examples known. Purchased as Uncirculated from Stack's 10/17/59 Wilson-Reuter sale, Lot 996, for \$110.

RARE 1855-S HALF EAGLE

A Condition Census Example



1011. 1855-S, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**, nearly Mint State. Sharply struck with rich orange and greenish-gold color. A little on the dull side, probably from being stored for so many years in a coin envelope without any intermediate protection. The coin has considerable mint luster and only a few light, widely scattered contact marks and faint hairlines under the cloudy orange toning. This is a rare, but often overlooked issue, especially in grades above EF. In all grades, it is more rare than the 1855-C and 1855-D, and Mint State examples are R-8. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff, 7/47, for \$40; according to Kosoff, this coin was previously Bell:526 and Flanagan: 1260, the only 1855-S Half Eagle in my auction survey in 1979 that had been catalogued as Uncirculated.



1012. 1856-C, **Very Fine**. Medium orange gold color, some of the original prooflike surface still evident. The surfaces are a trifle dull, most likely from the way the coin was stored, and there are light bagmarks in the fields and on the face. Purchased from R. Salisbury on 5/25/59, for \$53.



1013. 1856-D, **Extremely Fine or better**. Cloudy orange gold color, probably cleaned at one time. Light contact marks in the fields; softly struck on the hair curls around the face, at the eyebrow, and at the arrow feathers and eagle's talons on the reverse. This is the lowest mintage Dahlonega Mint Half Eagle from 1840-1856, and it is very scarce in all grades. Above EF it is rare, and Mint State examples are Extremely Rare, R-7. Purchased for \$35 from an Abner Kreisberg sale in 1958, Lot 1172.



1014. 1856-O, **Very Fine**. Medium greenish-gold color with a trace of pale orange. The surfaces are dull and the fields have a number of light to medium contact marks and abrasions. Weak at the date and softly struck on the first few obverse stars. Only 10,000 minted; a rare issue in all grades. Purchased for \$42 from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of April 1959, Lot 2664.



1015. 1857-C, **Very Fine**. Dull orange gold color, light to moderate contact marks throughout the fields. Purchased 11/8/55 from an Abe Kosoff sale as Lot 771, for \$16.50.



1016. 1857-D, **Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated**. Softly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face, and on the arrow feathers and eagle's talons. The rims have the beveled, rounded appearance that this issue and all the D Mint Half Eagles from 1854-1861 have. The surfaces are rather dull and they are greenish-gold in color. Not many contact marks or abrasions are evident, but there are some light hairlines under the dull haze. The 1857-D is rare and underrated in all grades. Most known examples only grade VF or EF, and relatively few are known at the AU level. In full Mint State, the issue is extremely rare with only a handful known. Purchased by JJP as Lot 2092 from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale in 1956 for \$18.



1017. 1857-O, Very Fine. Cleaned, now with a lightly burnished appearance. Planchet defect in the hair near the Y of LIBERTY. Dull, light greenish-gold color with deeper shades of yellow gold around the letters and devices, undoubtedly from the cleaning. Only 13,000 minted; similar in population rarity to both the 1855-O and 1856-O. In AU or higher, this issue is of the greatest rarity, and only one or two Mint State examples are known. JJP paid \$37.50 for this coin at Stack's 1/30/58 sale where it appeared as Lot 1924.

1018. 1857-S, Very Fine. Copper colored toning around the letters, but otherwise a pale orange gold color. Scratches on the obverse at the 10th star, and light to moderate contact marks and abrasions throughout the fields. Purchased as Lot 403 from French's 5/15/59 sale where it realized \$18.50.



1019. 1858-C, Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold color; the surfaces are a little dull from the way the coin was stored in a coin envelope without any other protection for a period of nearly 40 years. There are light contact marks and hairlines in the fields, and also a planchet depression above the eagle's neck about one third of the distance to OF in the legend. The 1858-C is one of the more common issues from this Mint and specimens in VF and EF are generally available. Uncirculated examples, however, are extremely rare. Purchased for \$40 from Abe Kosoff's 1958 ANA Convention sale, Lot 2239.



1020. 1858-D, Very Fine. Medium orange gold color, probably resulting from being cleaned. Light to moderate contact marks in the fields. Softly struck on the hair around the face, and on the arrow feathers and eagle's talons on the reverse. Acquired at the Farish Baldenhofer sale (Stack's) in November 1955, Lot 1321, for \$25.

RARE HIGH GRADE 1859-C HALF EAGLE



1021. 1859-C, Almost Uncirculated. Struck from a very poor quality reverse die, as are all known specimens of this issue. This die is so weak that even very high grade specimens like this one appear to be well worn. Ironically, the obverse of the 1859-C is typically well struck and very attractive; it is just the reverse that makes the appearance of the coin less than appealing. This specimen has medium greenish-gold color with a slight orange tint. There are some minor obverse abrasions, including two rather noticeable ones in the field between the neck and stars 11 and 12 (just below the hair bun). The reverse also has a noticeable abrasion directly above the eagle's head, but only a few light marks elsewhere, as well as a rim bruise above ED in UNITED. Although a little dull from having been stored unprotected in a coin envelope for many years, this coin shows very little evidence of actual circulation and is one of the finest examples known of this rare date. Purchased for \$20.50 from B.M. Douglas' MANA sale in October 1957 where it appeared as Lot 177.

The 1859-C is a moderately rare issue in terms of population rarity, perhaps mid Rarity-4 overall. However, in AU grade, as this specimen is, the issue is really quite rare, although a bit less so than previously believed. Mint State coins are extremely rare, easily High R-7, and the incredible gem Milas-Elrod-Eliasberg specimen, which I had the pleasure of selling on several occasions, is in a class all by itself. The Elrod duplicate, which I also handled some years ago, is the only other Choice example I have seen.

Terms of Sale

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part One, will be conducted in accordance with the Terms of Sale printed in the front of this catalogue. We request that each bidder read these terms carefully prior to bidding. Bidding in this sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of all of the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of Sale.

EXTREMELY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1859-D HALF EAGLE



1022. 1859-D, **Choice Uncirculated.** A highly lustrous example with superb orange gold color. Softly struck on the hair curls, especially the vertical curl below the ear, and on the arrow feathers. Rounded rims, as always seen on this issue. Only a few light widely scattered contact marks, including two tiny marks above and to the right of the eagle's head. This is one of the finest examples of this issue known, possibly even the finest, rivaled only by Milas: 516 (Stack's, 5/95). When B. Max Mehl described this coin as Lot 225 in the 1922 James Ten Eyck catalogue,

he wrote, "Magnificent uncirculated specimen of this rarity. By far the finest I have ever seen." Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Melish sale in 1956, Lot 2103, for \$42.50.

Only 10,366 examples of this issue were minted, the second lowest mintage figure of any D Mint Half Eagle after the 1861-D. Surprisingly, the 1859-D seems to be a little more available in AU than some other issues from this popular mint, but in full Mint State, it is extremely rare with at most 6-8 examples known.

1023. 1860, **Very Fine.** Partially prooflike with heavy marks and abrasions in the fields as well as several deep scratches. Light to medium orange gold color. Very scarce and underrated date, only 19,825 struck. Purchased from Stack's 10/17/59 Wilson-Reuter sale, Lot 1008, for \$33.

HIGH GRADE 1860-C HALF EAGLE



1024. 1860-C, **Almost Uncirculated.** Very sharply struck with a partial wire rim on the obverse. The reverse is weak as usual from being struck with a badly worn, rusted die. The quality of the planchet is well above average and the color is an appealing medium orange gold. There are some very light, scattered marks in the fields, as well as a noticeable abrasion on Liberty's chin. Considerable original mint luster remains throughout the partially prooflike fields and around the devices. Purchased by JJP from a Spink & Son sale, 4/1/58, Lot 97, for \$17.50.

The 1860-C has the third lowest mintage of any C Mint Half Eagle, only 14,813 pieces. However, it is more common than some issues with higher mintages, especially in AU condition. Overall, this issue is Rarity-4 in terms of population rarity; in Mint State, it is R-7 with perhaps 8-12 pieces known, none of which would grade as high as Choice Uncirculated.



1025. 1860-D, **Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Sharply struck with light to medium orange gold color and moderate luster. The surfaces have only a few light marks; the rims are less rounded than usual. Despite the low mintage of only 14,635 pieces, the 1860-D is the most common D Mint Half Eagle from 1855-1861, especially in grades above EF. Overall, in terms of the total number of pieces known, I would place this issue in the Rarity-4 category, possibly even at the low end of the range. Mint State examples, however, are very rare, at least high R-6, perhaps Low R-7. Purchased from the famous Melish sale (Kosoff, 4/56), Lot 2107, for \$22.



1026. 1861-C, Very Fine. Moderate to heavy abrasions including one on the 6 of the date. Scratch on Liberty's neck across the hair curl. Probably cleaned, now a light orange and greenish-gold color. Very scarce in any grade, but not as much so as the low mintage of 6,879 would imply; perhaps additional coins were struck by the Confederacy and thus not included in the Mint record. Purchased from Barney Bluestone's 94th sale, 9/46, Lot 1391, for \$25.50.

RARE 1861-D HALF EAGLE



1027. 1861-D, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. A very nice example of this rare and desirable issue. It is generally well struck except for the characteristic weakness on several upper stars, the tip of the coronet, the hair curls at the forehead, and the arrow feathers and eagle's talons. Well rounded, beveled rims as always seen on this issue, and attractive light coppery gold color. The surfaces of the coin are very clean with only a few light hairlines and marks. Purchased from the Milton Holmes sale (Stack's, 10/60), Lot 3535, for \$475, on an estimate of \$250. Earlier in the T. James Clarke Collection.

The 1861-D is generally regarded as the premier Half Eagle issue from the popular Dahlonega Mint. Only 1,597 pieces were struck before

the Mint was seized on April 8, 1861, by the Confederacy, who then proceeded to strike an additional quantity of coins from Federal gold at the Mint, perhaps as many as 500-1000 pieces. Most known specimens only grade VF or EF, but there are also a number of AU examples in existence as well as a somewhat surprising (considering the 1861-D's reputation as a rarity) number of Uncirculated pieces. Ullmer: 448 (Ex. R. L. Miles: 463), Eliasberg: 502 (later Auction '84: 1353), Norweb: 868 (Ex. Farouk: 254), and Milas: 524 were all nice Mint State pieces, and there are others, including one recently "certified" as MS-63. Overall, the 1861-D is Low Rarity-5 with Mint State examples qualifying as Low R-7.

VERY RARE 1864-S HALF EAGLE



1028. 1864-S, Very Fine. Average strike for the issue (weak on hair curls, coronet, arrow feathers, talons, upper stars); light to moderate marks and abrasions in the fields, as well as a rim nick at the 4th star. Pale rose and gold toning. Purchased by JJP from Paramount's 1976 Grand Central Sale, 11/76, Lot 869, for \$2,000.

The 1864-S is one of the rarest issues in the entire Liberty Head Half Eagle series. This particular specimen is about average quality and, for all practical purposes, the 1864-S can be considered unobtainable better than EF. It is unique in Mint State (Norweb: 875; Melish: 2122).



1029. 1866-S, No Motto. Very Fine. Well struck with light to moderate marks and hairlines throughout the fields. Copper toning around letters and devices, surfaces a little dull. Rare in all grades, although not nearly as difficult to locate as the 1864-S. Most known specimens grade VF or less, and better than EF, the 1866-S No Motto is essentially unobtainable. Purchased by JJP for \$450 from Stack's on 7/6/61.

1030. 1866-S, No Motto. Very Good. Duplicate. Probably cleaned, now a pale coppery gold color. No serious marks, just lots of circulation wear. Only 9,000 struck. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's mail bid sale of the Alex Shuford Collection, Lot 2102, for \$140.



1031. 1866-S, With Motto. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Tiny, weak S mintmark. Dull surfaces, coppery gold color. Light to moderate marks in the fields and one abrasion, almost

like a test mark, on the reverse rim above the first S in STATES. Not as rare as the No Motto variety of the same date and mint, but still difficult to find in any condition. Most are in grades below even this, and examples in AU are extremely rare. To the best of my knowledge, there are no Mint State examples, although several were catalogued as such in the past. Purchased from Lester Merkin's 3/69 sale, Lot 305, for \$195.

1032. 1866-S, With Motto. About Good. Duplicate. Extreme wear with the rim worn well into the letters. Dull surfaces, rim nick above ER. Purchased from Stack's 10/17/59 Wilson-Reuter sale, Lot 1014, for \$22.

VERY RARE PROOF 1867 HALF EAGLE



1033. 1867, Choice Proof. 50 Proofs minted. Gorgeous rich coppery gold color around the periphery. The strike is a little soft on the hair curls at the forehead and on the arrow feathers. There are several lint marks in the fields including one from the top of the left wing to the scroll and then to the A in STATES. There are also several hairlines, including one from the 4th star to the head. Stars at the left are smaller and thinner than usual, especially stars 3 and 4. The denticles at the left by the first four stars are also unusual, completely separated from one another and detached from the border, with a brilliant mirror surface between each denticle. On the edge, the milling is also different than one normally sees, with a brilliant surface between each milling segment. Some other Proof 1867 Half Eagles have these same characteristics (cf. Eliasberg: 515; Auction '85: 1438; Carter: 681;

Kaufman: 836; and J. Stack: 1186), but I am not certain whether these characteristics are common to all Proof 1867 Half Eagles. (Most likely, they are.) This coin was part of Lot 255 in the Farouk sale in 1954, there purchased by Abe Kosoff. JJP purchased the coin from Kosoff after the sale for \$125.

All Proof Half Eagles of the 1860's and 1870's are very rare and the 1867 is certainly no exception, despite a mintage that is somewhat higher than other Proof issues of the period. It is quite likely that a portion of the 50 Proof Half Eagles struck in 1867 remained unsold at year's end and were melted. Today, only 12-15 Proofs are known, several of which are in permanent collections or museums and thus not likely ever to be available to collectors.

1034. 1871-S, Fine. Dull, light orange color. Deep cuts at right wing tip and A of AMERICA. Scarce date.

VERY RARE PROOF 1872 HALF EAGLE



1035. 1872, Proof. 30 Proofs minted. Beautiful copper gold color under a light filmy haze. The reverse is close to Gem quality, but the obverse has light hairlines, as well as some carbon in the field between the face and the 3rd and 4th stars. This issue is very rare and seldom seen in Proof; no more than 12-15 Proofs are known, several of which are in museums or permanent collections. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62, for \$850.

1036. 1875-S, Fine to Very Fine. Light orange gold color, moderate to heavy bagmarks. Rare in all grades. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's mail-bid sale of the Alex Shuford Collection, 5/14/68, Lot 2112, for \$120.

VERY RARE PROOF 1876 HALF EAGLE



1037. 1876, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 45 Proofs minted. Rich orange gold color, full strike, and deep mirror fields. Light hairlines on the face; the reverse is very choice. There is a tiny die chip near the corner of the mouth and a tiny rust pit on the neck. Very rare, but less so than the Proofs of any of the previous years. It is estimated that 15-20 Proofs still exist. Purchased from B.A. Seaby of London, England, on 8/25/47 as part of a group of four 1876 Proof gold coins (\$1, \$2 1/2, \$3 and \$5) which cost JJP a total of \$500.

1038. 1877-CC, Fine to Very Fine. Cleaned, now a very dull orange and greenish-gold color. Rare date; only 8,680 struck. Purchased from a D & W sale, 4/3/59, Lot 182, for \$32.



1039. **1879, Uncirculated.** nearly in the Choice category. A highly lustrous, well struck specimen with rich orange gold color and light to moderate hairlines and minor contact marks. Excellent overall appearance; an uncommon date in this grade.

1040. **1880, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous with light orange gold color. Light to moderate marks and a few small edge nicks.

1041. **1880-S, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now with dull medium orange gold color.

1042. **1881, Extremely Fine.** Dull orange gold color.

1043. **1881-S, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, but still with some luster; light orange gold color.

1044. **1882, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned, now with medium orange gold color. Light hairlines and abrasions.

1045. **1884, Extremely Fine.** Dull orange gold color. Moderately scarce date.

1046. **1885, Extremely Fine.** Lustrous with attractive orange gold color.

1047. **1885-S, Uncirculated.** An attractive, original coin with greenish-gold and rose color. Light to moderate contact marks.

1048. **1887-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned, now a mottled orange gold color.

RARE PROOF 1888 HALF EAGLE



1049. **1888, Choice Proof.** 95 Proofs minted. Very sharply struck with a high wire rim on the upper obverse. The surfaces are covered with a soft cloudy haze that is typical of Proof gold coins that have never been cleaned or dipped; the haze has imparted a slight bluish tint to the otherwise light to medium yellow gold color. Under the

film there are some light hairlines (mostly on the obverse), but none appears serious. Approximately 30-35 Proofs of this date are estimated to exist. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale featuring the Jerome Kern Collection, 5/23/50, Lot 399, for \$65.

VERY RARE PROOF 1889 HALF EAGLE



1050. 1889, Choice Proof. 45 Proofs minted. A lovely example of this very rare Proof, a bit nicer than the 1888 in the previous lot. There is a cloudy film on the obverse, but only a little haze on the reverse. The strike is full, the edge sharp and square, and the coin has a beautiful rich yellow

gold color and only a few light hairlines. This is the rarest Proof Half Eagle after 1884, and only 15-20 specimens are estimated to exist. Purchased from Stack's Milton Holmes Collection sale, 10/60, Lot 3603, for \$500.

RARE PROOF 1890 HALF EAGLE



1051. 1890, Very Choice Proof. 88 Proofs minted. Very light cloudy haze on the surfaces, but considerably less than on the two preceding Proofs. Sharply struck with a square edge and a trace of a wire rim on the upper obverse. Rich copper tinged gold color and only a few very faint hairlines under the film. Identifiable by a tiny

lint mark between the 1st star and the 1 in the date. Overall, somewhat higher quality than either the 1888 or 1889 Proofs just offered. This rare Proof is nearly identical in terms of rarity to the 1888; approximately 30-35 Proofs are estimated to exist. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's 1956 Melish sale, Lot 2221, for \$110.

RARE PROOF 1891 HALF EAGLE



1052. 1891, Choice Proof. 53 Proofs minted. This is a really beautiful Proof with deep yellow gold color highlighted with several small copper toning spots. There are a few light hairlines in the fields, but they are very minor and effectively concealed by a slight haze on the surfaces. The strike is very sharp, and the square edge has a rather uniform wire rim. Identifiable by a tiny lint mark in the

reverse field just above the top leaf on the olive branch. Rare, more so than the Proofs of 1888 and 1890, but not as rare as the low Proof mintage might imply. For some reason, the survival rate of Proofs of this date is somewhat higher than for other dates of this period; an estimated 25-30 Proofs exist. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Dr. Charles Green Collection sale, 4/49, Lot 319, for \$42.

RARE PROOF 1892 HALF EAGLE



1053. 1892, Choice Proof. 92 Proofs minted. Softly struck on the hair around Liberty's face as well as on the eagle's neck feathers and the feathers on the bottom arrow. (This weakness of strike is not unusual for this date, although Proof 1892 Half Eagles are also seen very sharply struck.) The surfaces have a very light cloudy haze (more on the obverse than on the reverse), and beautiful rich yellow gold color. Some light hairlines are noted in the obverse field. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62 for \$375.

Based on the comparatively high mintage of 92 Proofs, one might expect the Proof 1892 Half Eagle to be rather common by Proof standards; at the very least, it should be much more common than the 1891 Proof, of which just 53 were struck. This is not at all the case, however, and the 1892 is actually just as rare as the 1891 in Proof, if not slightly more so. Perhaps some of the 92 Proof Half Eagles struck in 1892 were melted or, for some unknown reason, they suffered a higher attrition rate over the past century than did the 1891 Proofs. No one knows for sure, but here is yet another example of mintage figures not giving an accurate picture of relative rarity.

1054. 1892, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Frosty surfaces, light orange gold color. Not a great deal of luster.



1055. 1892-CC, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Very lustrous with semi-prooflike fields and attractive coppery gold color. Light to moderate contact marks, mostly on the obverse. Moderately scarce in this grade.

1056. 1892-O, Extremely Fine. Dull surfaces with medium greenish gold and orange color. Moderate to heavy marks and abrasions in the fields. Popular, low mintage issue with only 10,000 pieces struck, the first New Orleans Mint Half Eagles minted since before the Civil War.

RARE PROOF 1893 HALF EAGLE



1057. 1893, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category. 77 Proofs minted. From a quality standpoint, this is one of JJP's finest Proof Liberty Head Half Eagles. It is a little softly struck on the hair curls by the face and on the arrow feathers, but it is otherwise extremely sharp. A light cloudy haze over the surfaces adds a slight bluish tint to the rich yellow gold color. There are only a few

trivial hairlines on the coin and they are effectively concealed by the light film. Rare, with only 25-30 Proofs thought to exist. Purchased at the 1958 ANA Convention in Los Angeles from Vincent Greene of Toronto, Ontario, for \$82.50, a price determined by taking a 25% discount off the \$110 price listed in the 18th Edition of the Standard Catalogue.

1058. 1893, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Soft strike, dull orange gold color.

1059. 1893-CC, Extremely Fine. Dull greenish gold surfaces with copper highlights in the letters and around the devices. Moderately scarce, only 60,000 pieces struck.



1060. 1893-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous with light to medium gold color. Abrasion across 89 of the date. Only 110,000 minted.

RARE PROOF 1894 HALF EAGLE



1061. **1894, Choice Proof.** 75 Proofs minted. Beautiful medium gold color with a slight copper tint. The surfaces have a very delicate haze, but less than is present on some of the other Pittman Proofs from 1888-1907. There are only a few light hairlines in the fields and most of them are on the

obverse; the reverse is nearly Gem quality. There is also a tiny nick in the high wire rim by the 13th star. Similar in rarity to the Proof 1891-1893 Half Eagle issues, with only an estimated 25-30 Proofs known. Purchased from Pine Tree's 1973 GENA sale, 9/22/73, Lot 512, for \$1,050.

1062. **1894, Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned and heavily hairlined, especially on the obverse.

1063. **1894-O, Almost Uncirculated.** Softly struck on the hair around the face and on the arrow feathers. Medium gold color with orange highlights, especially in the legend. Popular, low mintage issue with only 16,600 struck.

RARE PROOF 1895 HALF EAGLE



1064. **1895, Choice Proof.** 81 Proofs minted. An attractive specimen with rich coppery gold color, a sharp square edge, partial wire rim, and deep mirror fields. There are a few light hairlines in the fields (mostly on the obverse) and

several on the chin. Rare, on a par with the Proof Half Eagles from the early years of the decade; only an estimated 25-30 Proofs are known. Purchased from Abner Kreisberg's 2/18/61 sale, Lot 1226, for \$500.

1065. 1895, Choice Almost Uncirculated. A lustrous specimen with light coppery gold color and light to moderate contact marks.

BEAUTIFUL GEM PROOF 1896 HALF EAGLE



1066. 1896, Gem Proof. 103 Proofs minted. A superb specimen with highly frosted cameo devices and deep mirror fields that are nearly flawless except for a faint hairline under the eagle's left wing, and a tiny lint mark in the field behind Liberty's neck. The surfaces are a deep rich yellow gold color and have just the slightest hint of a light haze, indicating that this Proof is original and uncleaned. It is one of the two highest quality Proof

Liberty Head Half Eagles from 1888-1907 in the Pittman Collection, the other being the 1900 in Lot 1074. Rare, about equal in rarity to the other Proofs from 1891-1895, despite its slightly higher mintage, a portion of which may have been melted. Only 25-30 Proof 1896 Half Eagles are known today. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62 for \$375.

RARE CHOICE PROOF 1897 HALF EAGLE



1067. 1897, Choice Proof. 83 Proofs minted. At first glance, this Proof gives the impression of being nearly in the Gem category. However, close inspection does reveal some light hairlines in the obverse field in front of the face, as well as a long one behind the head. The color is a very

deep yellow gold and the original surfaces have just a hint of a light haze. Rare, only 25-30 Proofs are known. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62 for \$375, the same price paid for the Proof 1896.

RARE PROOF 1898 HALF EAGLE



1068. **1898, Choice Proof.** 75 Proofs minted. Fully struck with a partial wire rim, deep mirror fields, and lightly frosted devices. There is a slight haze on the surfaces, as there is on most of these original, uncleaned Pittman Proofs, and there are just a few light hairlines under the haze, confined almost entirely to the obverse. The color is out-

standing, medium yellow gold with a lovely copper tint. Proofs of this date are rare, but not quite as rare as Proofs of most of the earlier years of this decade, and perhaps as many as 30-35 still exist. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff on 3/13/62 for \$450.

1069. **1898, Almost Uncirculated.** Dull orange gold, moderate contact marks.

1070. **1898-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous with nice orange gold color, moderate contact marks.

RARE PROOF 1899 HALF EAGLE



1071. **1899, Choice Proof.** 99 Proofs minted. Fully struck with deep mirror fields and a partial wire rim. Slightly hazy surfaces, lovely light to medium orange gold color. Lightly hairlined on both sides, but most noticeably in

front of the face. Rare, on a par with the lower mintage 1898; only about 30-35 Proof 1899 Half Eagles are thought to exist. Purchased from Stack's Howard Egolf sale, 5/5/61, Lot 591, for \$180.

1072. 1899, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Dull, light orange gold color. Marks on face.

1073. 1899-S, Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous, light to medium orange gold color. Heavy marks on face.

GEM PROOF 1900 HALF EAGLE



1074. 1900, Gem Proof. 230 Proofs minted. This beautiful Proof is one of the nicest of JJP's Liberty Head Proof Half Eagles, similar in overall quality to the 1896. The strike is extremely sharp, and the frosted devices really stand out against the deep mirror fields. A very light haze covers deep yellow gold surfaces that are almost entirely free of hairlines. In terms of overall "eye appeal", this Proof is exceptional in every respect. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 409, for \$42.50.

Although the number of Proofs minted of this date is by far the highest of any Half Eagle of the type, the 1900 Proof is only a little more common than the Proof issues that follow. That would seem to indicate that many of the 230 Proof Half Eagles originally minted in 1900 remained unsold at the end of the year and were subsequently melted. Today, approximately 60-75 Proofs are known; few, however, compare in quality to this magnificent specimen.

CHOICE 1900-S HALF EAGLE



1075. 1900-S, Choice Uncirculated. A lustrous, original specimen with a full strike and beautiful light coppery gold color. The surfaces are very clean with only a few minor marks. Not as scarce as previously believed, but still far from being a "common date".

PROOF 1901 HALF EAGLE



1076. 1901, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 140 Proofs minted. The obverse of this Proof is Choice with only a few light hairlines, but the coin is downgraded by the reverse which has a fairly prominent abrasion in the right field above the arrowheads. There is a slight haze on the surfaces of the coin which imparts a faint bluish tint to the light coppery gold color. Rare, only an estimated 50-60 Proofs are known. Purchased by JJP from Numismatic Gallery in November 1950 for \$50.

1077. 1901, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Cleaned and dull, light orange gold color.

1078. 1901-S, Uncirculated. Attractive orange gold color, a few obverse hairlines.

PROOF 1902 HALF EAGLE



1079. 1902, Proof. 162 Proofs minted. First year of the "all brilliant" finish. Light to moderate hairlines on both obverse and reverse. Medium yellow gold color with a copper toning spot at C of AMERICA. Although more Proof Half Eagles were minted in 1902 than in any year other than 1900, Proof 1902 Half Eagles are seemingly a bit more rare than the other Proofs from 1901-1907, with the sole exception of 1905. Only 40-50 Proofs of this date are estimated to have survived, so it is likely that some of the mintage were never distributed and subsequently melted. (It is also possible that the attrition rate for this year was slightly higher than normal for some unknown reason.) Purchased from Stack's famous sale of the Samuel W. Wolfson Collection, Lot 578, for \$290.

1080. 1902, Almost Uncirculated. Light orange gold color, probably cleaned. Moderate contact marks on both sides.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1903 HALF EAGLE



1081. 1903, Very Choice Proof, virtually in the Gem category. 154 Proofs minted. A brilliant, fully struck specimen with superb medium yellow gold color, a partial wire rim, and only a few trivial hairlines. Excellent "eye appeal" and likely to be graded a Gem by many. A little less rare than the 1902 or 1905 in Proof, but on a par with the other 20th Century Proof Liberty Head Half Eagles in terms of overall rarity. Approximately 50-60 Proofs of this issue are known. Purchased on 9/23/63 from W.W. Turner of Nashville, Tennessee, for \$375. Turner was the author of the popular 1971 book *Gold Coins For Financial Survival*.

1082. 1903, Almost Uncirculated. Light orange gold toning, moderate marks, abrasions and hairlines.

1083. 1903-S, Uncirculated. Full mint luster and original color. A Choice specimen except for a scrape from the 3rd star into the field in front of the face.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1904 HALF EAGLE



1084. 1904, Very Choice Proof. 136 Proofs minted. Rather similar in overall appearance to the beautiful 1903, but with just a few more light hairlines. This lovely Proof is fully brilliant with medium yellow gold color that has a slight copper tint. Areas of incomplete die polishing are noted around the eye and ear, as well as the letters of LIBERTY. Rare, only about 50-60 Proofs of this date still exist. Purchased from W.W. Turner in the same transaction as the 1903 in Lot 1081; JJP also paid \$375 for this Proof.

1085. 1904-S, Very Fine. Cleaned, now a dull medium orange and yellow gold color. Moderate to heavy abrasions.

PROOF 1905 HALF EAGLE



1086. 1905, Proof. 108 Proofs minted. Moderate hairlines on both obverse and reverse. Medium gold color with a light copper tint. As on the 1904, there are areas of incomplete die polishing around the eye and ear of Liberty. Rare, only 40-50 Proof 1905 Half Eagles are estimated to exist, fewer than of any date from 1901-1907 except 1902. Purchased privately from Abner Kreisberg in 1961 for \$225.

1087. 1905-S, Extremely Fine. Cleaned, now with dull cloudy surfaces and light orange gold color.

CHOICE PROOF 1906 HALF EAGLE



1088. 1906, Choice Proof. 85 Proofs minted. The surfaces have a very light hazy film which imparts a slight bluish tint to the lovely coppery gold color. There are a few light hairlines under the haze, but the overall look of this Proof is really excellent. The Proofs of 1906 apparently had a higher than normal survival rate; as many as 50-60 Proofs are still in existence. Purchased from a Kagin's sale, 10/22/60, Lot 1800, for \$235.

1089. 1906-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated. A little lackluster. Abrasion on the neck, rim nick by the 12th star.

PROOF 1907 HALF EAGLE



1090. 1907, Proof, nearly in the Choice category. 92 Proofs minted. The reverse is very high quality, but the obverse has light to moderate hairlines. Outstanding deep yellow gold color and radiant proof luster; free of the cloudy haze that is present on the Proof Half Eagles in previous lots. Many raised lines around Liberty's eye from incomplete die polishing. Rare, only 50-60 Proofs of this date are estimated to exist. Purchased at the 1948 ANA Convention from M.H. Bolender for \$25.

1091. 1907, Almost Uncirculated. Probably cleaned, now a dull light orange gold color. Nicks on 0 in date.

1092. 1907-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated. An original coin with full frosty mint luster and light to medium orange gold color.

1093. 1908, Liberty Head. Choice Almost Uncirculated. Moderate obverse hairlines, attractive light to medium yellow gold color. Tiny rim bruise by 1st and 2nd stars. Final year of Liberty Head type. Purchased by JJP from George Bauer in 1946 for \$10.50.

1094. 1908, Indian Head. Extremely Fine. Light greenish gold color, probably cleaned at one time.

1095. 1908-D, Extremely Fine. Cleaned and dull.

1096. 1908-S, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Medium greenish gold and orange color, not much luster. Scarce date, only 82,000 struck.

1097. 1909, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Lustrous and attractive with only a few marks and light to medium orange gold color.

1098. 1909-D, Very Fine. Harshly cleaned and hairlined.

1099. 1909-O, Extremely Fine. Weak mintmark. The greenish gold and orange surfaces are a little dull and there are moderate marks and abrasions in the fields and on the face. Very scarce, the most highly prized issue in the series; only 34,000 were struck. Purchased from Richard Picker, 8/25/56, for \$120.

1100. 1909-S, Very Fine. Cleaned and dull, weak mintmark.

1101. 1910, Uncirculated. Lustrous and well struck with attractive light to medium yellow and orange gold color. A fairly common date, except in Gem condition. Purchased as part of Lot 266 from the Farouk sale in 1954.

The Farouk sale in 1954 (technically called the "Palace Collections of Egypt" sale) was perhaps the defining moment in JJP's numismatic career. At the sale, he spent more money than he ever had before, or did subsequently. It was in Cairo, Egypt, that he made some of his greatest and most important purchases, and yet, in my opinion, the almost insignificant lot containing this 1910 Half Eagle (which was one of the lowest priced U.S. lots he purchased at the sale) was possibly his "best buy" of all, at least rivaling Lot 248 which contained the Proof Half Eagles of 1835 and 1836. For Lot 266, JJP paid 55 Egyptian Pounds, equivalent at the time to approximately \$158. After adding the 5% surcharge or Government tax, the total came to approximately \$166. The lot contained this coin and the 1910-D, 1910-S, 1911-D, 1911-S, and 1912-S that follow in Lots 1102, 1103, 1105, 1106, and 1108 respectively. It also contained Proofs of 1911 and 1912 (both later traded). Examine closely the quality of the 1910-D, 1910-S and 1911-S Half Eagles and see if you don't agree with me that this was a JJP "best buy" at the Farouk sale.

GEM UNCIRCULATED 1910-D HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



1102. 1910-D, Gem Uncirculated. This is an amazing coin, one of the finest Indian Head Half Eagles of any date that I have ever seen. It is fully struck with virtually perfect surfaces, fabulous luster, and wonderful rich orange and greenish gold color. For someone desiring the ultimate Indian Head Half Eagle for a type set, or putting together a complete date set of this series in the finest possible condition, this coin represents a dream fulfilled. Purchased by JJP from the Farouk sale in 1954 as part of Lot 266 which realized a total of \$166. Formerly in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

In terms of population rarity, the 1910-D Half Eagle is quite common; even in Uncirculated condition, literally hundreds of specimens are known. However, the average quality of an Uncirculated 1910-D Half Eagle is not particularly high, and specimens better than Choice Uncirculated are very rare. The James A. Stack: 1281 and Norweb: 983 examples are the only other Gems that have been sold at auction in many years. This Pittman specimen is superior to the Norweb coin and at least the equal of the wonderful Stack coin, if not finer.

VERY RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1910-S HALF EAGLE

One Of The Finest Known Specimens



1103. 1910-S, Gem Uncirculated. Another beautiful and very rare Indian Head Half Eagle from the Farouk collection. Although not quite as superb as the incredible 1910-D in the preceding lot, this coin is still a solid Gem and ranks as one of the finest known 1910-S Half Eagles, surpassed in my experience only by the Dr. Thaine Price-Louis Eliasberg-John Clapp example last offered in Auction '83 as Lot 406. This coin is very sharply struck with great luster and beautiful rich orange and greenish gold color. There are just a few trivial marks on the surfaces, and the

overall "eye appeal" of this specimen is absolutely first-rate. Purchased as part of Lot 266 from the Farouk sale in 1954. Formerly in the Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1910-S Half Eagle is readily available in circulated condition, which is not really surprising given its rather high mintage of 770,200 pieces. However, in Mint State, this is a rare issue, and in Choice Uncirculated condition, it is very rare and almost never available. Gems are of the highest rarity and it is my estimate that no more than 6-10 such specimens exists.

1104. 1911, Almost Uncirculated. Dull orange gold color. Numerous hairlines in the fields.

1105. 1911-D, Almost Uncirculated. Cleaned, now with rather dull greenish gold and orange color. Moderate hairlines in the fields and on the face. Very scarce in all grades; only 72,500 struck. Purchased as part of Lot 266 from the Farouk sale in 1954.

John Jay Pittman

John Jay Pittman was born February 18, 1913, in Virginia to North Carolina parents. He lived his early years in North Carolina and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a degree in Chemical Engineering. In 1936, he moved to Rochester, New York, to work for Kodak, the company in whose employ he remained until his retirement in 1971.

He was a long-time Governor of the American Numismatic Association and served as its President. He also served as President of the Canadian Numismatic Association and honorary President of the Mexican Numismatic Society. JJP was a member of countless coin clubs and associations and was the greatest numismatic goodwill ambassador the hobby has ever known. He served on the U.S. Assay Commission in 1947, and in 1980, he was given the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, the ANA's highest honor. He was also chosen for the ANA's Hall of Fame. JJP was a lecturer and exhibitor for more than half a century, sharing his knowledge and passion for coins with several generations of collectors. John Jay Pittman passed away on February 17, 1996.

VERY RARE GEM UNCIRCULATED 1911-S HALF EAGLE

Possibly The Finest Known Specimen



1106. **1911-S, Gem Uncirculated.** The third great branch mint Indian Head Half Eagle that JJP purchased at the Farouk sale in 1954. This coin is absolutely beautiful and exceptional in all respects. It is sharply struck with full mint luster, superb medium orange and greenish gold color, and clean surfaces that have no more than a few trivial marks. The mintmark is very sharp compared to most specimens and is plainly double punched. (I have never noticed this double punching before, but I cannot say for sure if it is rare; perhaps I have just not noticed it because the mintmark is usually such a weak "blob" on most 1911-S Half Eagles, even very high grade ones.)

Purchased as part of Lot 266 from the Farouk sale in 1954 where the entire eight coin lot realized the equivalent of \$166. Ex. Col. E.H.R. Green Collection.

The 1911-S Half Eagle had the second highest mintage of any issue in the entire series, and it is a very common date in circulated condition. In grades from Uncirculated to Choice Uncirculated, the 1911-S is scarce, but generally available. However, better than Choice, the issue is very rare, and true Gems such as this are virtually nonexistent. I have not seen another 1911-S Half Eagle possessing all the great qualities of this coin, and I feel that it is a strong candidate for finest known. At the very least, it is at the high end of the Condition Census for 1911-S Half Eagles.

1107. **1912, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** A lustrous specimen with light to medium yellow gold color and minimal marks.

1115. **1915-S, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, but still attractive with some luster remaining and light orange gold color.

1108. **1912-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Well struck for a 1912-S Half Eagle, but, as usual, the mintmark is a weak "blob" with no definition. The surfaces are a lackluster greenish gold, but there are not many marks or hairlines. Purchased as part of Lot 266 from the 1954 Farouk sale.

1116. **1916-S, Very Fine.** Cleaned and dull. Large rim nick below the date. Flat mintmark.

1109. **1913, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** nearly Mint State. Well struck and lustrous, light yellow gold color. Very few marks, but there is a trace of friction on the eagle's wing.

1110. **1913-S, Very Fine.** Extremely weak mintmark, harshly cleaned.

1111. **1914, Extremely Fine.** Medium orange gold color, light to moderate marks, some dirt in the letters.

1112. **1914-D, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned and dull.

1113. **1914-S, Extremely Fine.** Well struck with good luster. Deep scratch on the Indian's face.

1114. **1915, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** nearly Mint State. Sharply struck with full mint luster.

RARE 1929 HALF EAGLE



1117. **1929, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Lightly cleaned, now a light to medium yellow color with some original luster still remaining. Several prominent scratches on the obverse and digs on the reverse. Scarce and popular date; last year of issue of the denomination.

U.S. DOUBLE EAGLES



1118. 1850, Almost Uncirculated. Open 5, thin date, normal A in STATES. Well struck with decent luster and light to medium orange gold color. The frosty surfaces have relatively few bagmarks, all of which are minor in nature. On the reverse, a die break encircles almost the entire legend, running through the base of each letter in the denomination, and the top of every letter in UNITED STATES OF AMERICA except OF A. Breen notes that this variety is "rare". Purchased for \$60 on 11/5/49 from Ralph E. Elser, a county sheriff in Lima, Ohio. Previously in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.



1119. 1850-O, Extremely Fine. Closed 5, heavy date. Sharply struck with semi-prooflike fields and excellent rich yellow gold color. Light to medium contact marks scattered throughout the fields. The mintmark is double punched and touches the eagle's tail feathers. Scarce date, seldom seen better than this. Purchased from Lester Merkin's 10/19/66 sale, Lot 363, for \$160.

1120. 1850-O, Very Fine. Closed 5, heavy date. Lustrous with semi-prooflike fields and light greenish gold color. Moderate to heavy bagmarks. The mintmark does not touch the eagle's tail feathers. Purchased from Stack's 10/30/64 sale, Lot 969, for \$97.50.

1121. 1851, Choice Almost Uncirculated. A very attractive Type I Double Eagle with very good luster and medium orange gold color. Light to moderate bagmarks and abrasions are scattered across the surfaces. Repunching is evident on the 8 in the date. Purchased 11/5/49 from Ralph E. Elser for \$60. Previously in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.

HIGH GRADE 1851-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1122. 1851-O, Almost Uncirculated. Fully prooflike, moderately bagmarked fields, clean face. Very sharply struck except for some weakness at the first three stars. Cud on obverse rim just to the left of the first 1 in the date. Scarce date in this grade and very difficult to locate significantly finer. Purchased from Ed Bell on 11/21/63 for \$125.

UNCIRCULATED 1852 DOUBLE EAGLE



1123. 1852, Uncirculated. Heavy date, broken (repaired) A in STATES. Sharply struck with full mint luster and beautiful light to medium greenish gold and orange color. Some light bagmarks are scattered throughout the fields and there are also a few faint hairlines. On the reverse, there is a copper toning streak across the eagle's wing and shield. A thin die break is noted on the obverse, connecting all of the stars and the date. The 1852 is common in circulated grades, but quite scarce in Mint State. Purchased from Ralph E. Elser on 11/5/49 for \$60. Previously in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.

HIGH GRADE 1852-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1124. 1852-O, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Fully prooflike with superb luster and rich greenish gold and pale orange color. Moderate hairlines, especially on the obverse, but little, if any, indication of actual circulation wear. The fields have very few marks, but there is a noticeable milling mark on the cheek. Generally available only in well circulated grades, and specimens in this choice condition are rather rare. Purchased from C. Foster on 11/14/52 as Uncirculated for \$75.

1125. 1853, Choice Almost Uncirculated, virtually Mint State. Heavy date, broken (repaired) A in STATES. Sharply struck with full mint luster, attractive light to medium orange gold color, and minimal marks. Not rare as a date, but certainly scarce in this high grade. Purchased from Lima, Ohio, sheriff, Ralph E. Elser, on 11/5/49 for \$60. Previously in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.

1126. 1853-O, Very Fine. Partially prooflike fields with brilliant yellow gold color. Moderate to heavy bagmarks and hairlines in the fields. There has been an attempt to "smooth out" a scratch running from the first star to the chin; without this problem, the coin would grade EF. Purchased from Stack's 10/30/64 sale, Lot 975, for \$165.

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1854 DOUBLE EAGLE

Large Date Variety



1127. 1854, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. Large, thin date, broken (repaired) A in STATES. A frosty, sharply struck Double Eagle with excellent luster and beautiful medium orange gold color. The fields are very clean with only a few light hairlines and almost no bagmarks; however, there are some contact marks on the face and neck of Liberty. Purchased 11/5/49 from Ralph

E. Elser of Lima, Ohio, for \$60. Previously in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.

This is a very scarce, if not rare, variety; most 1854 Double Eagles have a small date as seen on the 1854-O in the next lot. Walter Breen lists this variety as No. 7168 in his Complete Encyclopedia and notes in part, "From the logotype used for Silver Dollars. May exist with broken A. Usually VF to EF; Ex. rare UNC."

VERY RARE 1854-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1128. **1854-O, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now heavily hairlined and rather dull. The fields have numerous and fairly heavy abrasions and marks, the most severe of which are on the obverse in front of the neck, and between the forehead and 5th star. The strike is very sharp and the color is the usual medium greenish gold. The date is small, as it is on all examples of this issue. Purchased from Abe Kosoff's mail-bid-only Alex Shuford sale, 5/14/68, Lot 2412, for \$2,750.

The 1854-O Double Eagle is one of the classic date rarities in the Double Eagle series, only slightly less rare than the 1856-O (also included in this sale as Lot 1134). It is estimated that only 20-25 examples of this very rare issue still exist out of the 3,250 pieces struck. Although several have been called Uncirculated in the past, I have never personally seen one, and this specimen is about the average quality that one is likely to find.

1129. **1854-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Harshly cleaned, probably in an attempt to remove dirt and debris from the letters; now very heavily hairlined. There are also moderately heavy contact marks throughout the fields, and an attempt has been made to remove or diminish one especially heavy mark by the 7th star. Purchased from Paramount's 1967 NASC sale, Lot 674, for \$85.

1130. **1855, Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now a dull medium orange gold color. Light to moderate bagmarks, mostly on the obverse. Graffiti in the reverse field under the eagle's right wing. Purchased from Frank T. Manship, 10/14/61, for \$48.

RARE 1855-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1131. **1855-O, Very Fine.** Light orange gold color; light to moderate marks and abrasions in the fields and on the face of Liberty. The cheek appears to have been "smoothed" to remove a deep abrasion. There is a small planchet depression, "as made", below the 55 in the date, and there is also a prominent rim nick by the 13th star. A rare date in all grades; only 8,000 were minted, of which only 60-75 have survived to the present day. Purchased from Lester Merkin's 10/19/66 sale, Lot 374, for \$275.

VERY RARE CHOICE UNCIRCULATED 1855-S DOUBLE EAGLE



1132. **1855-S, Choice Uncirculated.** Broken A in STATES and E in AMERICA, very weakly impressed mintmark. An original coin, not one of the occasionally seen "salt water" Uncirculated pieces. Very sharply struck with full mint luster and beautiful medium orange gold color. Some light bagmarks and hairlines in the fields, includ-

ing one light hairline scratch that runs from the Y in TWENTY above the D to the second A in AMERICA. Although this is a very common issue in circulated condition, original uncirculated pieces like this one are very rare. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 668, for \$87.50.

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1856 DOUBLE EAGLE



1133. **1856, Uncirculated.** A lustrous, well struck example of this underrated date. It is completely original, not one of the saltwater pieces that appear from time to time, and the color is an appealing light orange and gold color. Marks and hairlines are minimal in both number and severity. Typically, the 1856 Double Eagle is available only in VF or EF condition and, in AU, the issue is certainly very scarce. Mint State examples are rare, and they are extremely rare finer than this. Purchased from Ralph E. Elser for \$60 on 11/5/49. Apparently, Elser, a county

sheriff from Lima, Ohio, purchased this coin (and the other Double Eagles and Half Eagles he sold to JJP on the same day) from Michael F. Higgy in September 1942. Higgy, a prominent collector from Columbus, Ohio, was diagnosed with Bright's disease shortly thereafter, and sold his entire collection to Numismatic Gallery who subsequently sold it at public auction in September 1943. Several other Higgy coins, including the 1822 25/50 Rev. and 1823/2 Quarters, are also in the Pittman Collection and will be sold in May 1998.

VERY RARE 1856-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1134. 1856-O, Very Fine. Cleaned, now rather dull, although some of the original prooflike surface is still visible. Medium greenish gold color with an orange tint, and light to moderate bagmarks and hairlines scattered across the surfaces. There is a deep scratch across the tip of the bust through the 8 in the date, and a lighter one from the bottom curl at the back of the neck to the rim by the 13th star. Purchased from Ed Bell on 11/27/61 for \$3,000.

In terms of total number of specimens known, the 1856-O Double Eagle is the rarest regular issue Liberty Head Double Eagle, somewhat more rare than the 1854-O and 1870-CC. Only 2,250 pieces were minted and it is estimated that only 15-18 specimens are known today. Without a doubt, the 1856-O Double Eagle is one of the rarest, most desirable, and most popular of all U.S. gold coins.

RARE MINT STATE 1858 DOUBLE EAGLE



1135. 1857-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Highly lustrous, with fully prooflike fields, medium greenish gold color, and moderate to heavy bagmarks, hairlines and abrasions. A rare date in all grades; only 30,000 were struck. Purchased privately from Lester Merkin, 11/6/61, for \$200.

1136. 1857-S, Very Fine. Cleaned, now a dull, pale gold color with copper colored toning in the legends. Light to moderate bagmarks, hairlines and abrasions.

1137. 1858, Uncirculated, nearly Choice, except for one very prominent mark at the corner of Liberty's mouth. Very sharply struck with lustrous, semi-prooflike fields and superb light to medium orange gold color. In addition to the large mark by the mouth, there are some other light bagmarks as well as a few faint hairlines in the fields. There is also a tiny planchet imperfection, "as made", at the right side of the second 8 in the date. Purchased from Ralph E. Elser on 11/5/49 for \$60; formerly in the Michael F. Higgy Collection.

The 1858 Double Eagle is a very scarce and desirable date in all grades. Most known specimens grade from VF to AU, and relatively few Mint State examples are known. Norweb: 3976 was the finest seen in years and was slightly nicer than this Pittman-Higgy specimen, which is nevertheless in the Condition Census for the date. On a related note, after my book on U.S. Double Eagles was published in 1982, JJP informed me that the "Proof" 1858 Double Eagle catalogued as "Memorable: 684" and "World's Greatest Collection": 861, was not a Proof as described but rather a prooflike business strike. (The late Ed Trompeter asked me about this coin many times since it was the only U.S. Proof Gold coin from 1858-1915 that his great collection lacked.) This means that no Proof 1858 Double Eagle is known to be in private hands since the only two confirmed specimens are in the Smithsonian Institution and the ANS.



1138. 1858-O, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Fully prooflike, as are most known examples of this rare date. Well struck on the head of Liberty and the eagle, but weak on stars 1-3, the date, and the letters of UNITED STATES on the reverse. Lustrous, medium greenish gold surfaces that have moderate to heavy bagmarks throughout. Very difficult to find significantly finer than this, and Mint State specimens are exceedingly rare with the James and Margaret Carter specimen the nicest offered at auction in the last two decades. Purchased by JJP from Lester Merkin on 11/6/61 for \$190.



1139. 1859-O, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Light to medium greenish gold color, fully prooflike surfaces. Fewer marks and abrasions than on the 1858-O, but also more wear. Clash marks on the obverse by the ear and on the neck by the lowest curls; these are seen on all known specimens. This is a rare issue in all grades, more rare than the 1850-1853 O Mint issues as well as the 1857-O, 1858-O, and 1861-O. It is similar in rarity to, and perhaps even slightly more rare than, the lower mintage 1855-O and 1860-O. This specimen is about average for an 1859-O Double Eagle from a quality standpoint. Purchased from Lester Merkin's 10/66 sale, Lot 385, for \$560.



1140. 1860-O, Very Fine. Cleaned, now rather dull and heavily hairlined. Heavy abrasion near 1st star and across the point of the bust; other marks are scattered throughout the fields. Pale gold color with copper highlights. Very rare, low mintage date, similar in rarity to the 1855-O and 1859-O, perhaps just a bit less rare than the latter. Purchased privately from Lester Merkin on 11/6/61 for \$220.

POSSIBLY UNIQUE UNCIRCULATED 1861-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1141. 1861-O, Uncirculated. Well struck, with partially prooflike fields, outstanding luster, and beautiful light to medium greenish gold color. There are minor to moderate bagmarks throughout the fields, and several prominent marks on the face and chin. There is an area of carbon around the first S in STATES as well as some light hairlines across the upper reverse. The bottoms of the numerals 186 in the date are weak, a characteristic of all known examples of this rare issue. Purchased from the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1960, Lot 2872, for \$380. In that sale, it was described as, "Brilliant Uncirculated. Not quite nice enough for the 'Gem' category."

The 1861-O Double Eagle is very scarce in any condition, but if one is willing to settle for a heavily bagmarked VF or EF example, the wait for one will not be too long. In AU, however, this issue is very rare and usually available only when truly great collections are sold, cf. Eliasberg: 904. In my 1982 survey of 443 auctions from 1921-1981 (which did not include the sale in which this coin appeared), only one 1861-O Double Eagle was ever graded Uncirculated, the R.L. Miles specimen in 1968. I have not seen that particular coin, but Douglas Winter, in his book on New Orleans gold coins, described it as, "AU-55 or so, lightly cleaned." Therefore, to the best of my knowledge, this is the only known Uncirculated 1861-O Double Eagle and a coin of immeasurable importance to Double Eagle enthusiasts.

RARE 1861-S PAQUET DOUBLE EAGLE



1142. 1861-S, Paquet Reverse, Very Fine. Light greenish gold and orange color, not much luster. Moderately heavy bagmarks throughout the fields and devices, and also a number of nicks on the rims. Purchased from Bowers and Merena's October 1987 sale, Lot 2034, for \$4,620.

The reverse of this issue was created by assistant Mint engraver Anthony Paquet and is characterized by taller letters and wider fields, with necessarily narrower borders. This design was deemed unacceptable by the Director of the Philadelphia Mint due to potential die breakage, but before word was received at the San Francisco Mint to not use the new design, 19,250 pieces were struck. These pieces were put into immediate circulation and received extensive use. As a result, nearly all known specimens are very low grade, with VF typical and EF at the top end of the scale; in fact, I have never seen a specimen that was even close to full Mint State.

1143. 1864-S, Very Fine. Light orange gold color and light to moderate bagmarks. Purchased from Lubbock & Son in 1984.

EXTREMELY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1866-S WITH MOTTO DOUBLE EAGLE



1145. 1866-S, With Motto. Uncirculated. Well struck and lustrous with beautiful medium orange gold color. The surfaces have a number of light hairlines and bagmarks, as well as some carbon streaks. Unfortunately, the coin also has some severe rim problems. On the obverse, there is a small rim bruise between the 6th and 7th stars. On the reverse, there is a prominent cut on the rim between OF and AM, and a very nasty nick and scrape on the rim below ENTY of the denomination. Despite its problems, this coin is an unusually high grade example of this rare date. Nearly all known specimens grade only VF or EF, and the only other Uncirculated 1866-S I have seen is in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Purchased privately from Hans M.F. Schulman, 3/61, for \$240, noted as, "Finest Known".

PROOF 1867 DOUBLE EAGLE



1144. 1866-S, No Motto. Very Fine. Lackluster surfaces with light orange gold color and moderately heavy bagmarks. A rare date in all grades and nearly unobtainable better than EF. I have never seen or heard of a Mint State example of this issue. Purchased from Toivo Johnson for \$46, date of purchase unknown.

1146. 1867, Proof, but burnished and heavily hairlined. 50 Proofs minted. Not a very high quality specimen, but certainly desirable due to its great rarity. It seems likely that most of the 50 Proof Double Eagles minted in 1867 remained unsold at year's end and were therefore melted. Today, only 10-12 examples are thought to exist, including two examples held in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution and the ANS. Purchased 5/2/54 from Abe Kosoff for \$410; Kosoff had acquired the coin two months earlier from the Farouk sale as part of Lot 181.

1147. 1868, **Extremely Fine.** Moderately heavy bagmarks and abrasions as well as a number of light hairlines. Partially prooflike with light to medium orange gold color. Damaged milling at the top of the obverse, possibly the result of solder removal. Scarce date, only 98,600 struck.

1148. 1869, **Extremely Fine.** Cleaned and dull. Several edge nicks, as well as many bagmarks and abrasions in the fields.

VERY RARE PROOF 1872 DOUBLE EAGLE



1149. 1872, **Proof.** 30 Proofs minted. Heavily hairlined, especially on the obverse. Attractive medium orange gold color. Not as badly impaired as the 1867; on this piece the original Proof surface is still largely intact, and the

reverse is actually fairly attractive. Very rare; only an estimated 10-12 Proofs exist. Purchased from R. Green of Chicago, Illinois, on 6/5/52 for \$250.

1150. 1873, **Open 3. Extremely Fine.** Light orange gold color, moderately heavy bagmarks. Carbon on reverse rim and rim abrasion below 3 in the date.

1152. 1874-CC, **Very Fine.** Harshly cleaned, now a dull medium coppery gold color with numerous hairlines.

1151. 1874, **Very Fine.** Cleaned, now a dull greenish gold and pale orange color. Moderately heavy bagmarks and abrasions.

VERY RARE PROOF 1876 DOUBLE EAGLE



1153. 1876, **Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. 45 Proofs minted. A very attractive Proof Type II Double Eagle, much finer than either the 1867 or 1872 offered earlier. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and have a number of light hairlines, but no marks or abrasions. The color is especially pleasing, a rich medium yellow gold with con-

siderable copper highlights. There is an area of carbon on the reverse rim between (O)F and A(MERICA). Very rare, only slightly less so than the 1867 and 1872; approximately 12-15 examples are known. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's famous "Memorable" sale, 3/2/48, Lot 697, for \$205.

1154. 1877, Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Cleaned, now a dull light greenish gold and pale orange color. Partially

prooflike surfaces under a considerable number of bagmarks and abrasions.

RARE 1879-O DOUBLE EAGLE



1155. 1879-O, Almost Uncirculated. Partially prooflike surfaces with radiant luster and attractive light yellow and greenish gold color. Light to moderate bagmarks and abrasions in the fields as well as on the devices and rims. The overall appearance of this coin is excellent and it is definitely in the top rank of known specimens since the typically available 1879-O Double Eagle is only VF or EF.

This issue is one of the premier date rarities of the Double Eagle series, and had the second lowest mintage of any O Mint Double Eagle; a mere 2,325 pieces were struck and only about 80-100 are known to exist today. Purchased by JJP from Abe Kosoff's Thomas Melish sale in 1956, Lot 976, for \$235.

1156. 1884-CC, Very Fine. Light greenish gold color with copper colored highlights around the letters and devices. Light to medium bagmarks throughout the fields.

CHOICE MINT STATE 1887-S DOUBLE EAGLE



1157. 1887-S, Choice Uncirculated. A beautiful, original coin with a very sharp strike, outstanding luster, and superb medium orange gold surfaces highlighted with shades of greenish gold. There are a few trivial bagmarks and hairlines in the fields, but the overall "eye appeal" is excel-

lent. Although fairly common in the lower Mint State grades, in Choice Uncirculated or better condition, the 1887-S Double Eagle is surprisingly rare. Purchased from Spink's of London, England, in 1951 for \$60.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1888 DOUBLE EAGLE



1158. **1888, Very Choice Proof**, nearly in the Gem category. 102 Proofs minted. A magnificent Proof with a slight cloudy haze covering the entire surface of the coin and imparting a very faint bluish tint to the otherwise medium coppery gold color. (This light film, present on most of the late 19th Century Proof gold coins in the John Jay Pittman Collection, indicates that they have never been cleaned, dipped or tampered with in any way.) The fields are deeply mirrorlike and have the distinctive "orange peel" texture so often seen on U.S. Proof gold coins of this era. There are only a few light hairlines under the haze and

the overall "eye appeal" of this wonderful Proof is that of a Gem. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 612, for \$325.

Although the 1888 is not a famous Proof-only issue like the 1883, 1884 or 1887, or a low mintage date rarity like the 1881, 1882, 1885, or 1886, in Proof it is actually quite comparable to any of them with respect to the total number of pieces known, and is actually a little more rare than the 1886 or 1887. At most 20-25 Proof 1888 Double Eagles are known, few of which can match the nearly Gem quality of this specimen. Since such a low percentage of the original mintage seems to have survived, it is likely that many of the 102 Proofs struck were never sold and thus subsequently melted.

1159. 1888, Extremely Fine. Medium orange gold color, light to moderate bagmarks, not much luster.

VERY RARE PROOF 1889 DOUBLE EAGLE



1160. 1889, Very Choice Proof. 41 Proofs minted. Similar in appearance and color to the Proof 1888, but with a little less haze. The color is a beautiful medium coppery gold and the fields are highly mirrorlike with a slight "orange peel" texture. There are a few very faint hairlines in the fields as well as several pinpoint contact marks behind Liberty's head; on the rim near the 4th star, is a deep nick or cut. Excellent overall appearance, but just a bit lower

quality than the 1888. Purchased privately from Numismatic Gallery, 5/48, for \$315.

In my opinion, the 1889 is one of the most unappreciated rarities among Proof Liberty Head Double Eagles. It is more rare than any of the famous and highly touted Proof issues from 1881-1887, and more rare than any of the dates that follow from 1890-1907. Only 12-15 Proofs of this date can be accounted for today.

CHOICE PROOF 1890 DOUBLE EAGLE



1161. **1890, Choice Proof or better.** 55 Proofs minted. Frosted head and eagle and deep mirror fields that have the usual "orange peel" texture. The color is a rich yellow gold and the surfaces have just a trace of a light cloudy haze that adds a slight bluish tint to the color. There are some light hairlines in the fields and a faint abrasion by the 2nd and 3rd stars. Although not quite as high quality as the 1888 and 1889 Proofs, this lovely Proof equals them in the area of "eye appeal". Very rare, only a little less so than the 1889; at most 15-20 Proofs of this date still exist. Purchased from Max L. Justus on 2/4/60 for \$1,039.50, a price determined by taking a 10% discount from Justus' original asking price of \$1,155.

JJP acquired this Proof 1890 Double Eagle, along with a group of other Proof Double Eagles, in late 1959 and early 1960, from Max L. Justus, the proprietor of Beverly Hills Stamp and Coin Co. In

return for 15 Proof Double Eagles dated 1876, 1890, 1892, 1895, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1907, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915, JJP traded to Justus a duplicate original 1846 Proof Set (copper-silver only) that he had purchased from Spink's in London, England, on 4/18/51 for the equivalent of \$210 U.S., a Proof 1803 Bust Dollar he had purchased as Lot 2078 from the Menjou sale in 1950 for \$280, and a complete run of U.S. Proof sets from 1858-1915! Of course, JJP received much more for his coins than the total cost of the Proof Double Eagles, and this additional amount was used to pay off the substantial debt he had incurred six years earlier when he attended the Farouk sale in Cairo, Egypt, and made many of his greatest acquisitions. In later years, JJP traded the 1876 (since it was a duplicate), as well as all of the Saint Gaudens Proofs. The other Proof Liberty Head Double Eagles remained in his collection and are offered in the following lots.

MAGNIFICENT GEM PROOF 1891 DOUBLE EAGLE



1162. **1891, Gem Proof.** 52 Proofs minted. A stunningly beautiful coin that has superb "eye appeal" due to the frosted cameo head of Liberty, the deep mirror fields, and the fabulous rich yellow gold color. There are a few very faint hairlines on the "orange peel" surfaces, but the coin is still a solid Gem, and one of the finest of approximately 20-25 known Proofs of this date. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's sale of the Menjou Collection, 6/50, Lot 1830, for \$300.

Due to its rarity as a business strike (only 1,390 struck), as well as its low Proof mintage, the 1891 Double Eagle has always had a popularity in Proof that has exceeded its actual rarity. Proofs of this

date are definitely not as rare as those of 1889 or 1890, but rather are essentially equal in rarity to the higher mintage Proofs of 1888 and 1892, indicating that, for some unknown reason, the survival rate for Proof 1891 Double Eagles is somewhat above average for the era.

JJP last displayed this superb coin at the 1991 Centennial ANA Convention in Chicago, Illinois. It attracted a great deal of attention in that display as well as the usual offers to buy it, which, of course, fell on deaf ears with JJP. During the past year and a half, we displayed many of the Pittman coins at various numismatic conventions around the country, and I cannot think of any that received more admiring glances and comments than did this Proof 1891 Double Eagle. Fortunately for numismatists, it is now available for sale to the highest bidder for the first time in almost half a century.

1163. **1891-S, Extremely Fine.** Light orange gold color, some minor bagmarks and hairlines.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1892 DOUBLE EAGLE



1164. 1892, Gem Proof. 93 Proofs minted. Another truly magnificent Gem, on a par quality-wise with the beautiful 1891. This specimen has superb deep orange gold color, and just a trace of the light haze that is considered by many to be an attractive hallmark of a Proof gold coin's originality and uncleaned, undipped surfaces. (However, to many others it is "dirt" or "filth", as the late Ed Trompeter often called it, needing to be dipped away.) There are a few very light hairlines that are barely noticeable in the deeply mirrored fields which, by the way, have only a little of the often seen "orange peel" texture. The head of Liberty and the eagle are frosted and the coin has an excellent cameo appearance. Obtained on 11/22/59 in the transaction with Max L. Justus described in the commentary for Lot 1161. JJP paid \$1,039.50 for this Proof which represented a 10% discount from Justus' asking price of \$1,155.

The 93 piece mintage figure for Proof 1892 Double Eagles is misleading, in the sense that it might give one the impression that Proofs of this date are only moderately rare. However, it is important to recognize that a mintage figure for any Proof issue represents only the number struck, not the number actually sold. It was common practice for the Mint to strike a number of Proofs (how the figure was determined is not known) and then use this existing supply to fill orders throughout the year. At year's end (usually January or February of the following year, to be exact), the unsold pieces were melted. Now, in 1892, it certainly was not very likely that 92 people were willing to pay \$20.50 for a Proof Double Eagle (face value plus a \$0.50 "proofing" charge), and so it is probable that half, or even fewer, of the original mintage were actually distributed. Today, the 1892 is as rare in Proof as the 1891, of which only 52 pieces were struck, and only 20-25 examples are known.

1165. 1893, Very Fine. Cleaned, now a dull, light orange gold color with moderate bagmarks.

1166. 1894, Almost Uncirculated. Heavy abrasions on the obverse, lighter ones on the reverse. Medium orange gold color.

GEM PROOF 1895 DOUBLE EAGLE



1167. 1895, Gem Proof. 51 Proofs minted. A superb cameo specimen with frosted head and eagle and deep mirror fields. The "orange peel" surfaces have a very delicate filmy toning, indicating that the coin is original and uncleaned. There are only a few very light hairlines under the haze and the color is an especially appealing rich orange gold. Of the original 51 Proofs minted, per-

haps as many as 20-25 still exist, putting this date in Proof on a par rarity-wise with both the 1891 and 1892. Purchased on 2/4/60 from Max L. Justus for \$1,050, less a 10% discount, for a net price of \$945. This Proof was one of the 15 Proof Double Eagles JJP received in the transaction described in the commentary for Lot 1161.

1168. 1895-S, Almost Uncirculated. Partially prooflike surfaces and attractive orange gold color. Heavy abrasions near the 4th star on the obverse and ST on the reverse.

GEM PROOF 1896 DOUBLE EAGLE



1169. 1896, Gem Proof. 128 Proofs minted. A superb specimen in all respects, and one of the finest known Proof Liberty Head Double Eagles of any date. The surfaces are nearly perfect and have considerable "orange peel" texture and outstanding deep yellow gold color. The head of Liberty and the eagle are highly frosted and the fields are deeply mirrorlike, giving this coin a magnificent cameo appearance. Rare, but less so than any of

the preceding dates; an estimated 40-50 still exist, some of them extremely choice. (In fact, this is the date that one is most likely to find in Gem condition among all Proof Liberty Head Double Eagles.) Purchased from Abner Kreisberg's 2/18/61 sale, Lot 1400, for \$1,000, where it was succinctly and accurately described as, "Perfect Brilliant Proof...just as nice now as the day it was struck."

1170. 1896, **Extremely Fine.** Attractive medium coppery gold color, light to moderate bagmarks.

GEM PROOF 1897 DOUBLE EAGLE



1171. **1897, Gem Proof.** 76 Proofs minted. Very close in quality to the superb 1896 in Lot 1169, and possibly the finest Proof Liberty Head Double Eagle of this date that I have ever seen, approached (but not equaled) only by Eliasberg: 997, and definitely finer than the Norweb, Garrett or Carter examples. It is wholly original and uncleaned with just a very slight cloudiness over the rich yellow gold surfaces. The deep mirror fields are nearly pristine except for a few extremely faint hairlines hidden under the haze, and a tiny identifying lint mark at the bridge of the nose. The cameo effect of the slightly frosted head is excellent, although less pronounced than on

the 1896. (Proof 1897 Double Eagles have a unique and distinctive appearance that differs from all other dates; I find them especially attractive.) Purchased from Empire Coin Company on 11/22/60 for \$1,125.

In Proof, the 1897 is the rarest Liberty Head Double Eagle from 1895-1907, although one would not be able to discern this from the mintage figures. However, as I have stated before, number minted does not necessarily equate to number distributed, and it is probable that a substantial portion of the 76 Proof 1897 Double Eagles minted were never sold and thus later melted. Today, only about 18-22 can be accounted for, many of which have varying degrees of impairments, unlike this example which is actually quite close to perfection.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1898 DOUBLE EAGLE



1172. 1898, Very Choice Proof. 75 Proofs minted. This beautiful Proof has more cloudy film on the surfaces, especially on the obverse, than do most of the Proof Double Eagles in the Pittman Collection. However, under the medium haze, the surfaces appear to be very clean with only a few minor hairlines. The reverse is a deep yellow gold color while the obverse has a slight copper tint. The frosted head serves to give the coin a cameo appearance, although this effect is somewhat lessened by the filmy toning. Purchased by JJP from B. Max

Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (featuring the Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 618, for \$225.

Although certainly rare, particularly in the Very Choice condition offered here, the 1898 Double Eagle is not nearly as rare in Proof as the 1897 which had an almost identical number minted. In fact, the 1897 is nearly twice as rare as the 1898 in Proof, showing once again how misleading mintage figures can be when determining or comparing rarity, even of two similar issues minted just one year apart. I estimate that approximately 35-40 Proof 1898 Double Eagles are known, indicating a rather high survival rate for the issue compared to most other Proof Double Eagles of the era.

1173. 1898, Extremely Fine. Dull, light orange gold color. Carbon streak behind head, a few rim nicks, and bagmarks on face.

Purchased from the Howard Egolf sale (Stack's, 5/61), Lot 647, for \$61.

CHOICE PROOF 1899 DOUBLE EAGLE



1174. 1899, Choice Proof. 84 Proofs minted. Rich yellow gold color with a slight copper tint; the surfaces have a very light cloudy haze, but it is much less pronounced than on the 1898. The head is lightly frosted giving the coin a moderate cameo appearance, and the mirrorlike fields have a considerable amount of the "orange peel" texture that is so common to late 19th Century U.S. Proof gold

coins. The fields have some light hairlines, but none is especially serious; there are also a few light hairlines on the face. Proofs of this date are rare, certainly more so than those dated 1896 and 1898, and only about 25-30 specimens can be accounted for today. Purchased privately from Abe Kosoff in February 1960 for \$975.

1175. 1899, Choice Almost Uncirculated. Full mint luster, moderate to heavy bagmarks, and attractive orange gold color.

Pittman, Part Two

The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale, Part Two, will take place on May 20-21, 1998, at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. This second sale will consist of U.S. Coins, Medals and Paper Money, and will be conducted in two sessions.

Featured in this second sale will be the exceedingly rare Proof 1848 Eagle, the only collectible example of the two specimens known. Also included in Part Two will be the Farouk-Parmelee specimen of the Proof 1838 Eagle, JJP's duplicate Proof 1835 Half Eagle, Original Proof Sets of 1845 and 1846, and many other early U.S. Proof coins prior to 1858. The sale also contains an extensive selection of Proof Liberty Head Quarter Eagles and Eagles, both complete from 1888 to 1907, with earlier issues in the 1860's and 1870's as well. There are also many rare and superb business strike Quarters, Half Dollars, Silver Dollars, Quarter Eagles and Eagles in the sale. This will be one of the most important sales of this era and we invite your participation.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1900 DOUBLE EAGLE



1176. 1900, Very Choice Proof, nearly in the Gem category. 124 Proofs minted. Another outstanding Proof Liberty Head Double Eagle with a great cameo appearance (frosted head contrasted against mirror fields), and beautiful rich coppery gold color under a very delicate haze. There are a few very faint hairlines in the fields, but the coin is so choice and attractive that many, if not

most, viewers will grade it a Gem. Although rare, this date is one of the most common Liberty Head Double Eagles in Proof; at least 35 examples exist, possibly even 40 or more, putting the 1900 Proof in the same general rarity class as the 1898 and 1901, among others. Purchased from Max L. Justus, owner of Beverly Hills Stamp and Coin Co., on 11/22/59 for \$945.

CHOICE PROOF 1901 DOUBLE EAGLE



1177. 1901, Choice Proof or better. 96 Proofs minted. Similar in overall appearance to the 1900 Proof, but of just slightly lower quality due to a few more hairlines in the fields and several on the face. The cameo effect is also slightly less on this Proof than on the 1900, but the color of this 1901 is an equally beautiful rich coppery gold.

Like most of the Proof gold coins of this era in the Pittman Collection, this beautiful Proof has a very light cloudy haze on the surfaces. Rare, only 35-40 Proofs are estimated to have survived. Purchased 11/22/59 from Max L. Justus for \$945.

PROOF 1902 DOUBLE EAGLE



1178. **1902, Proof**, nearly in the Choice category. 114 Proofs minted. This is the first year of issue of the "all brilliant" Proofs that continued through the last year of the design in 1907. There is a very light cloudy haze covering the fields and devices of this Proof, and beneath the film are

deep yellow gold surfaces that have light to moderate hairlines, most of which are on the obverse. Proofs of this date are similar in rarity to those of 1898, 1900, and 1901 and it is estimated that approximately 35-40 still exist. Purchased 11/22/59 from Max L. Justus for \$945.

CHOICE PROOF 1903 DOUBLE EAGLE



1179. **1903, Choice Proof**. 158 Proofs minted. Fully brilliant with rich yellow gold color and deep mirror fields. There are some light hairlines on both the obverse and reverse, the most noticeable of which are at the date. A few tiny copper and violet colored toning spots are also noted on both sides. More Proofs were struck of this date than of

any other Liberty Head Double Eagle and, so it is not really surprising that it is one of the most common Proofs of the type. At least 40 examples are known, perhaps even as many as 50. Purchased from Max L. Justus on 11/22/59 for \$990.

CHOICE PROOF 1904 DOUBLE EAGLE



1180. **1904, Choice Proof.** 98 Proofs minted. A few light hairlines are visible, including a long one across the face of Liberty, and one on the left side of the reverse running from the D in DOLLARS to T in UNITED. The surfaces are fully brilliant with rich yellow gold color and just a

hint of light hazy toning. Despite its lower mintage, the 1904 is about the same rarity in Proof as the 1903 with approximately 40-50 examples known. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 2/6/60, Lot 2923, for \$1,150.

1181. **1904, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Light yellow gold with a few orange highlights.

PROOF 1905 DOUBLE EAGLE



1182. **1905, Proof,** nearly in the Choice category. 92 Proofs minted. Excellent color, a very rich and deep yellow gold. The reverse is fully Choice, but the obverse has a number of light hairlines in the fields and on the face. Proofs of

this date are rare, a little more so than any other date from 1900-1907; only 30-35 specimens are estimated to exist. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 623, for \$235.

PROOF 1906 DOUBLE EAGLE



1183. 1906, **Proof**, nearly in the Choice category. 94 Proofs minted. An attractive Proof, but of slightly lower overall quality than any of the other Proof Double Eagles from 1888-1907 in the Pittman Collection. The surfaces are slightly hazy with coppery gold color and a moderate number of light hairlines. There is also a small abrasion between the 12th and 13th stars, and an even smaller one

between the 11th and 12th stars. Near the ear, and the hair curls below it on the neck, can be seen evidence of incomplete die polishing. There is also a tiny identifying lint mark at the denticles by the 3rd star. Rare, but quite likely the most common Proof of the type; approximately 50-60 Proofs are estimated to exist. Purchased from Max L. Justus on 11/22/59 for \$945.

1184. 1906-D, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**. Dull, medium orange gold color, light bagmarks. Purchased from a "Springfield, Mass., dealer at 1962 Tampa show", per JJP's coin envelope, 1/16/62, for \$50.

1185. 1906-S, **Choice Almost Uncirculated**, nearly Mint State. A highly lustrous specimen with beautiful orange gold color and moderate bagmarks. Purchased for \$70, date of transaction and seller unknown.

VERY CHOICE PROOF 1907 DOUBLE EAGLE



1186. 1907, **Liberty Head. Very Choice Proof**, nearly in the Gem category. 78 Proofs minted. A very slight haze covers the surfaces which have a beautiful rich coppery gold color. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and have no more than a few very faint hairlines. From an overall quality and "eye appeal" standpoint, this Proof is the finest of JJP's 20th Century Proof Liberty Head Double Eagles from 1901-1907. Rare, but not as much so as the

relatively low mintage figure of 78 pieces would imply, indicating a much higher than normal survival rate. Today, at least 40 and possibly as many as 50 Proofs of this date are known. Purchased from Max L. Justus on 11/22/59 for \$945. (See Lot 1161 for a more in-depth description of the transaction that enabled JJP to acquire this Proof and a number of other Proof Double Eagles from Justus in late 1959 and early 1960.)

1187. 1907-D, **Uncirculated.** Beautiful medium orange gold color. Frosty surfaces and only a few minor marks and hairlines.



1188. 1907 MCMVII, **High Relief, Wire Rim, Uncirculated.** A lustrous example of a coin that has long been considered to be one of the most beautiful United States coins struck for general circulation. There are only a few trivial marks and hairlines on the medium greenish gold surfaces. Above the flying eagle, there are numerous raised die scratches in and around the legend. The wire rim is negligible on the obverse, but clearly evident on the reverse rim, particularly in the upper left quadrant. Purchased 9/5/47 from a Mr. Gullian for \$100.

Although certainly beautiful with respect to its artistic execution, this High Relief design was clearly impractical, both from a production standpoint, and a commercial usage standpoint. The coins did not "stack" well and each specimen required a minimum of three blows from the minting press to strike up properly. This made high speed production impossible, which was, of course, a very important consideration in the minting of large quantities of Double Eagles. After only 11,250 pieces were struck, technical changes in the Saint-Gaudens design, mostly involving the relief, were effected by Chief Engraver Charles Barber, who doubtless took great pleasure in being able to say, "I told you so!" (Barber had always been vehemently opposed to the use of any outsider, even a world famous sculptor like Augustus Saint-Gaudens, to design official U.S. coins. He felt that designing a coin involved much more than mere artistic talent. It also required an intimate knowledge of minting procedures and techniques, commercial requirements etc., knowledge that a non-numismatic outsider was not likely to possess.) After conceiving the designs of the Eagle and Double Eagle and creating the models, Saint-Gaudens became gravely ill, and turned over the project to his assistant, Henry Hering, who was left with the unenviable task of battling Barber and the rest of the Mint hierarchy. Augustus Saint-Gaudens died in 1907 without ever actually seeing an example of his beautiful Double Eagle design. As a final note on this subject, Charles Barber must have admired Saint-Gaudens original design concept a lot more than he ever let anyone know. When Barber died in 1917, several Extremely High Relief (and numerous High Relief) Double Eagles were found in his estate, in addition to Saint-Gaudens' personal choice for the Double Eagle design, the unique Indian Head Double Eagle, J-1776!

1189. 1907, **Arabic Numerals, Extremely Fine.** Very heavily bagmarked, especially on the obverse. Light orange gold color.

1190. 1908, **No Motto, Uncirculated.** A fairly lustrous specimen with light orange gold color and light to moderate bagmarks.

1191. 1908-D, **No Motto, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Not many bagmarks, but very little luster. Nice coppery gold color. Purchased from Stack's in June 1956 for \$42.

1192. 1908-D, **With Motto, Almost Uncirculated.** Light to medium orange gold color, very light bagmarks. There is also an abrasion in the upper right obverse field near TY and another near L. Purchased from Stack's in June 1956 for \$41.



1193. 1908-S, **Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** A lustrous example of this scarce, low mintage issue with orange gold color and light to moderately heavy bagmarks, including a prominent one in the field below the torch. Purchased by JJP from the Menjou sale (Mehl, 6/50), Lot 1937, for \$105.



1194. 1909/8, **Uncirculated,** nearly in the Choice category. The obverse of this coin is fully Choice, but the reverse has numerous light bagmarks on the eagle and in the rays below. The luster is excellent and the color is a beautiful medium greenish gold. Moderately scarce in this grade. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee Sale (Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 632, for \$100, where it was enthusiastically claimed to be, "Just as perfect as the day it was minted."

1195. 1909, **Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous, with light yellow gold color and rather heavy bagmarks.

1196. 1909-D, **Choice Almost Uncirculated.** The luster is somewhat subdued, no doubt as a result of the coin being stored for over 40 years in a manila coin envelope. The surfaces are a light coppery gold color and have several rather severe marks as well as numerous lighter ones. Purchased as Lot 1987 from the Menjou sale in 1950 for \$95.

1197. 1909-S, **Uncirculated,** but dull from improper storage. Warm orange gold color, light to moderate bagmarks. Purchased 6/2/54 from James Kelly for \$48.

1198. 1910, **Very Fine.** Cleaned, now a dull light orange gold color.

1199. 1910-D, **Uncirculated**, nearly in the Choice category. Subdued luster from long term storage in a coin envelope. Relatively few marks, nice light orange gold color. Purchased from Kagin's 9/55 sale, Lot 923, for \$41.50.

1200. 1910-S, **Almost Uncirculated**. Lustrous with attractive medium orange gold color. Moderate bagmarks and hairline scratches.

1201. 1911, **Very Fine**. Cleaned, now a dull orange gold.

1202. 1911-D, **Extremely Fine**. Double punched mintmark as seen on many of this issue, although Breen notes that it is "Rare". This specimen has some luster, but it has been cleaned.

1203. 1911-S, **Uncirculated**, but possibly cleaned, now with a light haze and medium orange gold color.

1204. 1912, **Uncirculated**. Frosty and well struck with beautiful light greenish gold and rose color. Several prominent marks, cuts and abrasions on both sides. Purchased from Stack's in October 1959 for \$60.

VERY RARE GEM PROOF 1913 DOUBLE EAGLE

Struck in John Jay Pittman's Birth Year



1205. 1913, **Gem Proof**. 58 Proofs struck. A superb specimen of this rare issue, one that certainly must rank among the finest known Proof 1913 Double Eagles. The strike is very sharp and there is a partial wire rim on the reverse. The matte surfaces have incredibly rich deep orange and greenish gold color, and are virtually free of the hairlines, marks and shiny highlights that so often plague Matte Proof gold coins. The 1913 Double Eagle had the second lowest Proof mintage of the eight Proof issues of this

series and examples are very rare; only 20-25 still exist. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's Golden Jubilee sale (Jerome Kern Collection), 5/23/50, Lot 636, for \$127.50.

John Jay Pittman was born in 1913, and so this Double Eagle represents his birth year. He was very proud of this coin and displayed it often. When he traded his other Matte Proof gold coins in later years (including a duplicate 1913 Double Eagle he had obtained in the Max Justus transaction), he never even considered parting with this coin, and it remained the only Matte Proof U.S. gold coin in his collection.

1206. 1913, **Extremely Fine.** Light greenish gold color; moderately heavy bagmarks, especially under Liberty's outstretched arm.

1207. 1913-D, **Extremely Fine.** Harshly cleaned and heavily hairlined.

1208. 1913-S, **Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Virtually Mint State in terms of actual wear, but there are very heavy abrasions on the figure of Liberty and in the fields. The coin is lustrous with very good color, a light yellow and orange gold. Purchased 8/27/55 from Dallas Coin Co. for \$55.

1209. 1914, **Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now a light orange gold color.

1210. 1914-D, **Choice Almost Uncirculated.** A lustrous attractive specimen with medium orange gold color and just a few light bagmarks and abrasions.

1211. 1914-S, **Almost Uncirculated.** Cleaned, now a dull light to medium orange gold color. Deep nick in left obverse field.

1212. 1915, **Very Fine to Extremely Fine.** Cleaned, now a pale orange gold color. Moderately heavy bagmarks including one deep cut in the right obverse field.

1213. 1915-S, **Uncirculated.** A nice original coin with decent luster and only a few light bagmarks. Attractive light orange gold color. Purchased 6/55 from Stack's for \$45.

1214. 1916-S, **Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Prominent abrasion in the right obverse field under Liberty's arm close to her gown, as well as several cuts across the figure. Subdued luster, light orange gold color. Purchased 6/55 from Stack's for \$50.

1215. 1920, **Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated.** Moderate bagmarks and abrasions, decent luster and color. Purchased from Stack's Samuel W. Wolfson sale, 10/62, Lot 1021, for \$70.

RARE HIGH GRADE 1920-S DOUBLE EAGLE



1216. 1920-S, **Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State, and likely to be so graded by some. The reverse is clearly Uncirculated and the obverse has just the slightest trace of friction on the highest points. Very light bagmarks on both sides, as well as a couple of small reverse rim abrasions, and one larger bagmark in the field below and to the left of the olive branch. The luster is very good and the color is an appealing light to medium

orange gold. Purchased from Mike Kolman's 11/22/58 sale, Lot 122, for \$255.

The 1920-S is one of the premier dates of this popular series. Most known examples grade Extremely Fine or Almost Uncirculated, and Mint State pieces, especially ones grading Choice Uncirculated or better, are among the rarest of all 20th Century U.S. gold coins. This specimen, although not quite Mint State, is certainly very close and thus finer than most other available specimens.

1217. **1922, Uncirculated.** A lustrous specimen with copper hued orange gold color. There are some heavy copper spots on the obverse, lighter ones on the reverse.

1218. **1922-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State. Possibly cleaned at one time, now a bright medium orange gold color. Moderate to heavy bagmarks and abrasions in the fields and on the figure of Liberty. Above the eagle's head, there are several parallel depressions in the field. Purchased from Stack's, 10/62, for \$250.

1219. **1923, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Lustrous, with light orange gold color and a few copper toning spots around the figure of Liberty.

1220. **1923-D, Choice Uncirculated.** An attractive example of this common date with medium orange and greenish gold color and lustrous surfaces that have light to moderate bagmarks. Acquired 6/55 in a trade with William ("Foxy") Steinberg; JJP gave Steinberg 1881 and 1882 Eagles plus \$2 in cash for this 1923-D Double Eagle.

1221. **1924, Uncirculated.** Subdued medium orange gold color; some marks on the figure, but not many in the fields.



1222. **1924-D, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Very brilliant with light orange gold color; light hairlines and bagmarks in the fields. There are also a few cuts on Liberty's leg and in the folds of her gown. A die break runs from the top of the L through all the letters of LIBERTY as well as the torch. Scarce date. Purchased from James Kelly, 2/56, for \$65.



1223. **1924-S, Almost Uncirculated.** Excellent color and luster, and just a trace of friction on the highpoints. There are some minor marks on Liberty's leg in addition to other light bagmarks in the fields. Between the eagle's wing and DOL-LARS, there are some light scratches. The 4 in the date is weak and a vertical die break runs through it into the field. Purchased 2/56 from James Kelly for \$325, a price that indicates this issue's high perceived rarity and value in 1956.

1224. **1925, Choice Almost Uncirculated,** virtually Mint State. Subdued light orange gold surfaces, light to moderate bagmarks.

UNCIRCULATED 1925-D DOUBLE EAGLE



1225. **1925-D, Uncirculated.** Numerous marks on Liberty's legs and gown, but relatively few bagmarks in the fields. The luster is rather subdued from the coin's long-term storage in a manila coin envelope, and the surfaces are now a light orange gold color. Very scarce date. Purchased from William Donner, 5/17/58, for \$150.



1226. **1925-S, Choice Almost Uncirculated.** Light orange gold color. Moderately heavy bagmarks and abrasions on the figure of Liberty, but the fields are fairly clean. The surfaces are a bit lackluster from being stored for many years in a coin envelope. Slightly beveled rims as usually seen on this issue. Purchased from Stack's, 10/55, for \$100.

1227. **1926, Choice Uncirculated.** A lustrous, well struck specimen with full mint luster and rich orange and greenish gold color. Purchased 8/27/55 from William Donner for \$55.



1228. **1926-D, Almost Uncirculated.** Pale coppery gold color; heavy abrasions and bagmarks, especially on the obverse. Scarce date, but the quality is lower than usually seen. Purchased from James Kelly, 2/56, for \$500. The high price JJP paid for this coin and the 1926-S that follows shows the esteem in which these two dates were held 40 years ago.

MINT STATE 1926-S DOUBLE EAGLE



1229. 1926-S, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. A lovely, frosty specimen with medium greenish gold and orange color. The fields are quite clean with only a few marks, none of which are really serious. A die break encircles almost the entire obverse near the border, just inside the stars. Another is on the reverse, running from the second A in AMERICA down through the eagle's wing and tail feathers to the S in TRUST. Purchased from James Kelly, 2/56, for \$500, a testimony to the perceived rarity of this issue in 1956, before comparatively large quantities were discovered in Europe.

In the mid-1950's when JJP purchased this coin, the 1926-S (and the 1926-D in the previous lot) were considered major rarities in the series. The \$500 that JJP paid for each of these coins was a very high price in 1956. More than two years later, he had to pay only \$255 for a virtually Uncirculated 1920-S Double Eagle, and Choice Proof Liberty Head and Saint-Gaudens Double Eagles could be readily purchased at that time for only \$300-\$400 apiece.

1230. 1927, Choice Uncirculated. Full mint luster and rich medium orange gold color. Trace of film on the surfaces, but relatively few marks.

RARE 1927-S DOUBLE EAGLE



1231. 1927-S, Almost Uncirculated. A very lustrous example of this rare issue with light to medium orange gold color, rounded, beveled rims, and rather heavy bagmarks, especially on the obverse. Purchased from William Donner on 8/24/56 for \$300.

At one time, the 1927-S was considered to be the fourth rarest issue of the series after the 1924-S, 1926-D, and 1926-S (in that order), and definitely more rare than such issues as 1920-S, 1921, 1930-S, and even the 1927-D. In the 1950's and 1960's, however, additional quantities of 1927-S Double Eagles were found in Europe (mostly France), and so it was reduced from its former "extremely rare" status to merely "rare", a position it still holds today.

1232. 1928, Uncirculated, nearly in the Choice category. The luster is subdued from the coin being in a manila envelope for many years, but there are not a lot of marks.

RARE 1929 DOUBLE EAGLE



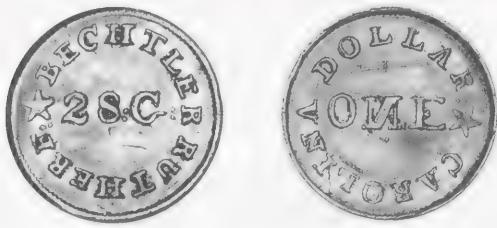
1233. 1929, Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Cleaned, now moderately hairlined. The surfaces have acquired a medium orange gold color and have a number of bagmarks and abrasions, including a few in the left obverse field that are quite severe. Not particularly high quality, but very desirable due to its considerable rarity as a date. Purchased 2/56 from James Kelly for \$250.

PRIVATE AND TERRITORIAL GOLD COINS

COINS OF THE BECHTLERS
Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1830-1852

1234. C. Bechtler, One Dollar, N. CAROLINA GOLD, RUTH-ERF, 30G. Reeded edge. Kagin-1, Breen-7744, Krause & Mishler-89. 30.0 grains. Rarity-4. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Reverse rotated clockwise 270 degrees from normal alignment. Struck slightly off-center to the top on the obverse. The surfaces are partially prooflike and have attractive copper and greenish gold color. Several vertical scratches by N of ONE; adjustment or file marks at border above (RUTH)ERF and C. B(ECHTLER). Breen notes that this issue is, "The most plentiful of all Bechtler coins". Purchased for \$100 from Dover, New Hampshire, dealer, Mel Came, on 1/20/60.

Although born in Virginia, JJP was the son of two North Carolina natives who, at the time of JJP's birth in 1913, were only temporarily living and working in Virginia. Before he was six months old, JJP and his parents returned to Rocky Mount, North Carolina, where his parents lived the rest of their lives. After living in North Carolina all his early life, JJP attended and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also maintained a home in Rocky Mount for years, and so he always considered himself a Carolinian and a true "Tar Heel". So it is no surprise that he had a special love for the coinage of North Carolina, both the private Bechtler coins, and the Federal issues from the Charlotte Mint.



1235. Bechtler, One Dollar, CAROLINA, N reversed, 28 G. Plain edge. K-4, B-7761, KM-87. 27.1 grains. Rarity-4. Very Fine. Slightly bent, as are many examples of this issue (cf. Eliasberg: 317). Cleaned, several deep scratches on both sides. Medium greenish gold and copper color. Joint coinage of C. Bechtler and A. Bechtler, 1840-1842, usually referred to as Series VII coinage. This is a common issue by Bechtler standards. Purchased for \$45 at the 1960 FUN convention from, "The man at the end of the room", per JJP's coin envelope.

HIGH GRADE BECHTLER \$2.50 GOLD

67 Grains, 21 Carats



1236. Bechtler, \$2.50, CAROLINA GOLD, 67 G., 21 Carats. Plain edge. K-10, B-7753, KM-90.1. 66.8 grains. Rarity-5. Almost Uncirculated. Prooflike surfaces with beautiful copper gold color highlighted with violet toning. The fields are very clean with only a few marks. The reverse has several die breaks: 1) rim through left side of T of BECHTLER; 2) rim to upper left serif of E of BECHTLER; and 3) rim to lower left base of 2 in denomination. Purchased from Paramount's Stanley Elrod sale, 7/76, Lot 357, for \$1,250.

1237. Bechtler, \$2.50, GEORGIA GOLD, 64 G., 22 Carats. Plain edge, Uneven 22. K-11, B-7756, KM-76.1. 63.5 grains. Rarity-6. Very Fine, but heavily scratched and "worked on" in the fields. Letters appear to have been "strengthened". Light greenish gold color. Very poor overall quality, but still desirable because of its considerable rarity. Purchased from Garland Stephens at the 1960 FUN convention for \$150.



1238. C. Bechtler, Assayer, 5 Dollars, NORTH CAROLINA GOLD, 150 G., 20 Carats. Reeded edge. K-15, B-7743, KM-99.1. 148.7 grains. Rarity-7. Very Fine. Cleaned and hairlined, possibly plugged and repaired. (At the very least, the fields have been extensively "smoothed" and "worked on".) Edge repair, probably to remove evidence of mounting. This coin has overwhelming problems, but it is still desirable because it is extremely rare with only an estimated 10-12 pieces known. Purchased from Doyle B. McKinney in 1961 for \$240.

C. BECHTLER 5 DOLLARS

140 G., 20 Carats



1239. C. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, AT RUTHERFORD, August 1, 1834, 140 G., 20 Carats. Plain edge. K-17, B-7750, KM-96.1. 139.4 grains. Rarity-5. Extremely Fine. No crossbars on A's (inverted V's used). Reverse die rotated 135 degrees clockwise from normal. Prooflike surfaces and beautiful greenish gold and copper color. Weak at rims above AT RUTHERFORD and on much of reverse. Die break above R in CAROLINA. Heavy file (adjustment) marks on rim above (GO)LD, lighter ones by AT RUTHERFORD. A few light hairlines in the fields, but the overall appearance of this coin is really excellent. Purchased from a French's sale, 4/29/60, Lot 1006, for \$220.

VERY RARE C. BECHTLER 5 DOLLARS**140 G., 20 Carats, 20 Distant From Carats**

1240. C. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, AT RUTHERFORD, August 1, 1834, 140 G., 20 Carats. Plain edge, 20 distant from Carats. K-19, B-7752, KM-97.2. 140.2 grains. **High Rarity-6.** Extremely Fine. Normal A's in legend. Slightly concave reverse, prooflike surfaces, and attractive medium orange and greenish gold color. There are some light hairlines in the fields and a few minor marks on the rims. Reverse rotated approximately 225 degrees clockwise from normal alignment. Very rare and seldom seen in any condition. Purchased from the Milton Holmes Collection sale (Stack's, 10/60), Lot 4115, for \$260.

RARE C. BECHTLER 5 DOLLARS**134 G., 21 Carats**

1241. C. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, AT RUTHERFORD, 134 G., 21 Carats, With Star. Plain edge. K-20, B-7754, KM-94.1. 133.1 grains. **Rarity-4.** Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Reverse rotated 180 degrees from normal alignment. Medium greenish gold and copper color. Numerous light handling marks in the fields and several marks on the rims. Attractive overall appearance for the grade. Purchased from French's 4/29/60 sale, Lot 1004, for \$155.

EXCEEDINGLY RARE C. BECHTLER 5 DOLLARS**Colon Before 22 and After 128 G**

1242. C. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, GEORGIA GOLD, AT RUTHERFORD, 128 G.; .22 Carats. Colon before 22 and after 128 G. Plain edge. K-21, B-7758, KM-78.2. 126.4 grains. **Rarity-8.** Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Reverse rotated 135 degrees clockwise from normal alignment. Slight repair above E of GEORGIA in an attempt to remove a deep scratch. Partially prooflike surfaces with medium greenish gold color highlighted with deep copper toning around the letters. Purchased from a Kreisberg-Schulman sale, 2/6/60, Lot 2997, for \$235.

This is one of the great rarities of the Bechtler series. It is unpriced in any grade in the current Red Book and Donald Kagin gives it an R-8

rating in his excellent reference work; Walter Breen, in his Encyclopedia, writes, "3 known?" Although others may also exist, the following three examples are the only ones I can trace from auction records. (Contrary to some reports, including Breen's, the great George Walton Collection sold by Stack's in 1963 did not contain an example of this rarity. Lot 2256 in that sale did not have the colon and thus was K-22, not K-21.)

1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here; Kreisberg-Schulman 2/60: 2297. Could this be the example Breen mentions from the F.C.C. Boyd estate with which Kreisberg was closely involved?
2. Superior 5/92: 3097.
3. Wayman: 413; Gibson: 162; Gaylord: 406.

VERY RARE C. BECHTLER 5 DOLLARS

Kagin 23, Breen 7760



1243. C. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, GEORGIA GOLD, AT RUTHEREFORD, 128 G., 22 Carats. Plain edge. K-23, B-7760. 128.1 grains. High Rarity-6. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Reverse rotated 270 degrees clockwise from normal alignment. Weak at borders, especially at (BE)CHTL(ER), GE(ORGIA) and 22 CA(RATS). Partially prooflike surfaces and lovely rich coppery gold color. Numerous light hairlines and handling marks in the fields, but still very attractive overall. Very rare, although less so than the two RUTHERFORD varieties, K-21 and K-22; at most 15-20 examples of this rarity are estimated to exist. Purchased from a French's sale, 4/29/60, Lot 1007, for \$190.



1246. A. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, RUTHERFORD, 134 G., 21 Carats. Reeded edge. K-27, B-7766, KM-84. 134.7 grains. Rarity-5. Very Fine. Cleaned, now lightly hairlined with medium greenish gold color and traces of copper colored toning; some handling marks in the fields. Weak in places at the denticles. Purchased from the famous George Walton sale (Stack's, 10/63), Lot 2345, for \$320.



1247. A. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, RUTHERFORD, 128 G., 22 Carats. Reeded edge. K-28, B-7765, KM-85. 127.2 grains. Rarity-7. Very Fine. Lightly cleaned, now a medium greenish gold color with copper highlights. Moderate to heavy abrasions in the fields, several rim nicks. Extremely rare; Walter Breen notes, "8 known". Purchased from the George Walton sale (Stack's, 10/63), Lot 2349, for \$310.



1248. A. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, RUTHERFORD, 141 G., 20 Carats. Reeded edge. K-29, B-7767, KM-86. 138.9 grains. Rarity-7. Fine. Thoroughly repaired in the fields, possibly to remove scratches or initials. Purchased from Paramount's Stanley Elrod sale, 7/76, Lot 362, for \$2,000.



1244. A. Bechtler, 1 Dollar, CAROLINA GOLD, 27 G., 21 C. Plain edge. K-24, B-7764, KM-83.1. 26.9 grains. Rarity-3. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Reverse rotated 120 degrees clockwise from normal alignment. Partially prooflike with greenish gold and copper toning, light hairlines and some minor marks in the fields. Purchased from Paramount's Stanley Elrod sale, 7/76, Lot 359, for \$380.

1245. A. Bechtler, 1 Dollar, CAROLINA GOLD, 27 G., 21 C. Plain edge. K-24, B-7764, KM-83.1. 25.5 grains. Rarity-3. Fine to Very Fine. Duplicate. Harshly cleaned and heavily hairlined. Purchased from R. Salisbury at the 1962 FUN Convention for \$145.

VERY RARE A. BECHTLER \$5 GOLD RESTRIKE IN PROOF



1249. A. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, RUTHERFORD, 141 G., 20 Carats. Plain edge. Restrike. K-30, B-7768. 146.3 grains. High Rarity-7. Proof, nearly in the Choice category. The fields are brilliant and mirrorlike with considerable die rust on both obverse and reverse; a die break runs from the rim to the second A in CARATS. (The rust spots and die break are on all known specimens.) There is a large lint mark on the obverse between the denticles and F in RUTHERFORD. The surfaces are a rich yellow gold color and have light to moderate hairlines. JJP obtained this rarity in a trade with C.C. Shroyer in 1972; JJP traded Shroyer one of the 1970 Canadian VIP sets he had purchased in 1970 for \$13 for this coin. In his notes, JJP indicates that the Canadian set and this Restrike Proof were valued by both parties at \$500 each in the trade.

This piece was struck from the original obverse and reverse dies used to mint the K-29 (B-7767) issue in the preceding lot. Apparently, Henry Chapman acquired these dies, along with the C. Bechtler obverse

die used to strike the issues in Lot 1240 (K-19), Lot 1241 (K-20), and Lot 1243 (K-23), sometime after the turn of the century. He subsequently arranged for a small quantity of both this Restrike and the Fantasy Restrike in the next lot, to be struck at the Philadelphia Mint in .999 fine gold. The dies and blanks were highly polished so that these "coins" were produced as "Proofs", apparently by the Mint's Medal department. Reports vary as to when the minting took place and how many pieces of each type were actually struck. Correspondence clearly indicates that 10 pieces (presumably 5 of each type) were struck as late as 1922. Other reports have indicated that Chapman had the dies as early as 1908, so perhaps additional pieces were struck between 1908 and 1922. The "High Rarity-7" rating indicated earlier is Don Kagin's rating in his reference book, which would indicate 4-6 known of each type. This figure is compatible with the number known to be struck in 1922, according to the correspondence cited by Walter Breen, who also notes that this "coin" (and the next lot) are, "Ex. Rare." Other estimates in the past have placed the number minted of each type considerably higher, in the range of 10-20 pieces. While we may never know which is the correct figure, it is certainly safe and conservative to note that this piece and the next are Very Rare, perhaps even Extremely Rare.

Pedigrees

John Jay Pittman purchased coins from an amazingly wide variety of sources, from professional dealers, public and mail bid auctions, and numerous individual collectors. The cataloguer (David W. Akers) has attempted to present in this catalogue as accurate an historical record as possible of JJP's purchases. JJP's notes, coin envelopes, ledgers, invoices, exhibition cards and personally annotated auction catalogues have been thoroughly researched in order to correctly pedigree his coins. However, the reader should be aware that, where pedigrees are concerned, inaccuracies are always possible, no matter how careful and thorough the research. Nevertheless, the pedigrees listed herein are believed to be correct as stated.

VERY RARE C. BECHTLER \$5 FANTASY RESTRIKE IN PROOF



1250. C. Bechtler, 5 Dollars, CAROLINA GOLD, AT RUTH-ERF., 141 G., 20 Carats. Plain edge. Fantasy Restrike. K-31, B-7769, KM-98. 146.6 grains. High Rarity-7. Very Choice Proof. A beautiful example of this popular rarity with deep mirror fields, rich yellow gold color, and only a few minor hairlines. Overall, this piece is distinctly higher quality than the preceding lot. This Proof also does not have nearly as much die rust on the obverse as is present on the example of K-30, since this obverse die was obviously in much better condition than the K-30 obverse when they both were acquired in the early 1900's

by Henry Chapman. Purchased by JJP from Lester Merkin's 4/70 sale, Lot 805, for \$400.

I have referred to this "coin" as a "Fantasy Restrike" to distinguish it from the preceding lot since no actual coins were ever struck from this die combination in the days of Bechtler coinage. (Something cannot be "restuck" if it was never struck in the first place.) Apparently, this Fantasy Restrike is somewhat more rare than the A. Bechtler Restrike. Even as late as the Lester Merkin sale of September 1967, in which another example appears, Walter Breen (then cataloguing Merkin's sales) noted that the specimen in that sale was the first he had ever seen. When this piece sold a few years later, Breen noted that it was only the second one of which he was aware at that time.

MOFFAT & CO. San Francisco, California, 1849-1853

1849 MOFFAT & CO. \$5 GOLD



1251. 1849, Five Dollars. Reeded edge. K-4, B-7784, KM-371. 129.7 grains. Rarity-5. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Weakly struck on the hair curls around Liberty's face as usual; small planchet depression, "as made", behind the eagle's head. Very lustrous with rich greenish gold and copper color. Considerable die rust is evident, but the surfaces of the coin have only a few light handling marks and hairlines. Purchased from B. Max

Mehl's Dr. Russell H. Renz Collection sale (sold with the Allenburger Collection), 3/48, Lot 3939, for \$41.

This rare issue was struck from dies prepared by Albert Küner, an excellent engraver who created the dies for many California gold issues, as well as the \$10 and \$20 pattern gold pieces for British Columbia in 1862. Note: The John Jay Pittman Collection contains a silver trial strike of the \$10 gold pattern of British Columbia and a gold striking of the 1862 \$20. Both will be sold in Part Three of the Pittman Collection sale.

UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE
AUGUSTUS HUMBERT
 U.S. Assayer, 1851-1852
 Under Mofatt & Co.

VERY RARE 1851 \$50

Kagin 7, Breen 7708
 Small Target Reverse



1252. 1851, Fifty Dollars, 887 THOUS, Target reverse. Reeded edge. K-7, B-7708, KM-32.2. Rarity-7. Fine to Very Fine. Clean rims with only a few minor nicks; none of the huge bumps and bruises so often seen on these pieces. Medium greenish gold and copper color with moderately heavy contact marks and abrasions over much of the surface. Struck from a heavily rusted obverse die. Purchased from Sol Kaplan in 1958, date and price not indicated.

This variety with the small target reverse (consisting of 19 concentric circles approximately 14.5 millimeters in diameter) is considerably more rare than the variety (K-6) with a large target on the reverse (consisting of 22 concentric circles approximately 16 mm in diameter). Cataloguers have seldom noted the target size in the past, but it is easy to tell the difference, even from photographs. Don Kagin, in his standard reference on the subject of Private and Territorial Gold issues, indicates that this variety is Rarity-7, meaning at most 12 pieces are known.

UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE
OF GOLD
 1852-1853
 Under Curtis, Perry & Ward



1253. 1852, Ten Dollars, 884 THOUS. Reeded edge. K-12a (2), B-7718, KM-51.3. 262.7 grains. Rarity-5. Extremely Fine. Possibly lightly cleaned at one time, but now an attractive rich greenish gold and copper color. There are a few light marks in the fields, as well as a scratch under IT of UNITED. This is the variety with the O of OFFICE directly under the N of UNITED, and weak beads. Purchased from Stack's Milton Holmes Collection sale, 10/60, Lot 4122, for \$270.



1254. 1853, Twenty Dollars, 900 THOUS. Reeded edge. K-18, B-7723, KM-53a. 514.7 grains. Rarity-2. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Medium greenish gold and orange color. A few minor marks on the rims, as well as light to moderate bagmarks in the fields. On the reverse, there is an abrasion on several of the letters. Purchased from A. H. Baldwin & Son of London, England, on 3/24/54 for \$112.

This by far the most common of the California Twenty Dollar gold coins; indeed, it is one of the commonest of all California non-fractional gold issues regardless of denomination. Over 2 1/2 million pieces were minted and many minor varieties exist. On this particular example, the upper left serifs of the E's in UNITED and STATES are missing, but the E in AMERICA is normal. In TWENTY, the lower left serif of the E is missing. All examples of this issue have 900 over 880.

U.S. ASSAY - MOFFAT, 1853

VERY RARE UNCIRCULATED 1853 MOFFAT & CO. \$20 GOLD



1255. 1853, Twenty Dollars. Reeded edge. K-19, B-7789, KM-40. 516.8 grains. High Rarity-5. Uncirculated. An outstanding example of this rarity with full original mint luster and color. There are numerous, but rather minor, contact marks in the fields, as well as a few on the face and neck. On the reverse, above RA of FRANCISCO, there is a severe rim abrasion that has actually served to bend the coin very slightly. This is still one of the finest examples known of this issue; most specimens are only in the VF or EF grades (cf. Eliasberg: 338). Purchased by JJP at the famous Farouk sale in 1954, Lot 352, for 55 Egyptian Pounds. With the addition of the 5% Government tax, the final price was the equivalent of \$166.

Walter Breen estimates that 75,000+ examples of this issue were minted. They are very similar in appearance to the regular Federal issue Double Eagles, as well as the Kellogg \$20 issues of 1854 and 1855. In fact, the reverse die used to strike this piece was later used to strike the Kellogg coins. John Little Moffat had retired in February 1852, and his three original partners, Joseph R. Curtis, Philo H. Perry, and Samuel H. Ward, continued their operation as the U.S. Assay Office for less than two years. According to Don Kagin, "Under an earlier agreement, Curtis, Perry and Ward were allowed to use the old Moffat & Co. name on any subsequent coinage. In 1853 they used the old name on \$20 gold pieces while operating as the U.S. Assay Office." Walter Breen states, "On Dec. 14, 1853, Moffat & Co. and the U.S. Assay Office closed for good, all its equipment being bought out by the new federal branch mint. Most of its coins were later melted for recoining into regular S-Mint gold."

MINERS BANK San Francisco, California, 1849

VERY RARE 1849 MINERS BANK \$10 GOLD



1256. Undated (1849), Ten Dollars. Reeded edge. K-1, B-7777, KM-36. 264.8 grains. Rarity-6. Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Rich coppery gold color and excellent luster. Light to moderate bagmarks throughout the fields; huge lintmark at the tip of eagle's left wing near C of CALIFORNIA. Sharply struck on the eagle, a little weak near the rims. Excellent overall appearance, especially considering its rather low technical grade. Purchased from Numismatic Gallery's 1953 ANA sale, Lot 1416, for \$625.

The Ten Dollar gold pieces of the Miners Bank (denoted Miners,

Bank in the legend, and Miner's Bank in many references) were struck (using the old hammer method, per Breen's Encyclopedia, pg. 632) in the Fall of 1849, although no date appears on the coins. Upon assay, the coins were found to contain only \$9.65 worth of gold plus a little silver, a totally unacceptable figure in the hard money "Old West". The coins were not accepted at face value in commerce, and even brokers refused to take them except at a discounted price consistent with their bullion value. In December 1850, the Miners Bank was dissolved and most of the \$10 pieces in private hands quickly met their fate in melting pots. Today, the issue is justifiably considered to be very rare and it is estimated that only 25-30 examples still exist.

BALDWIN & CO.
San Francisco, California, 1850

VERY RARE 1850 BALDWIN & CO. \$10 "HORSEMAN"



1257. 1850, Ten Dollars. Reeded edge. K-3, B-7810, KM-18.

261.5 grains. Rarity-6. Very Fine, but previously mounted and now repaired. (The repair is very evident at the tip of the eagle's right wing and at the two stars to the left of SAN.) The surfaces have a "pebbly" look, typical of a coin used for jewelry, and are now a medium greenish gold and copper color with a few violet highlights. Purchased 9/6/50 from C.C. Shroyer for \$600.

This issue is one of the rarest and most popular of all private California gold issues. Designed by Albert Küner, the obverse features

a cowboy on horseback twirling a lariat. There is no comparably unique design among other private and territorial issues, and this fact undoubtedly accounts for the issue's lasting popularity and correspondingly high price. Although the "Horseman" or "Cowboy" Baldwin & Co. \$10 had a very high gold content (\$9.96, well within acceptable limits by Federal mint standards), the issue was not well accepted at the time, probably because the design was too unique and unusual. Baldwin & Co. quickly changed to a more conventional design for their 1851 issue, and undoubtedly most of the 1850 \$10 pieces were quickly melted, accounting for their rarity today; only an estimated 20-25 pieces are thought to still exist.

KELLOGG & COMPANY
San Francisco, California, 1854-1855

RARE UNCIRCULATED 1854 KELLOGG & CO. \$20 GOLD



1258. 1854, Twenty Dollars. Reeded edge. K-1a, B-7917, KM-

33.3. 515.8 grains. Rarity-4. Uncirculated. Thin date. Short arrows, same reverse as used on the 1853 Moffat & Co. \$20, Lot 1255. This is a very attractive specimen with a full strike, excellent luster, and medium greenish gold and light copper color. The rims have some small nicks,

and the fields have light to moderate abrasions and bagmarks, including a noticeable milling mark near the bridge of the nose. Although only scarce in terms of population rarity, this issue is rare in Mint State. Purchased by JJP from the Farouk sale in 1954, Lot 354, for the equivalent of \$120.



1259. 1855, Twenty Dollars. Reeded edge. K-3, B-7919, KM-33.4. 515.4 grains. Rarity-4. Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated. Long arrows. Very lustrous with light greenish gold color highlighted with a copper tint. Well struck on the central devices, but flatly struck on stars 1 through 9. Heavy abrasions on both the obverse and reverse, especially in the fields. The second 5 is distant from the first and is a different shape. Also, on this particular specimen, the vertical of this second 5 and the initial portion of the curve are missing. This is a scarce issue that is very difficult to locate significantly finer than this. Purchased from French's 4/29/60 sale, Lot 996, for \$275.

UNIQUE 1855 KELLOGG & CO. \$50 TRIAL STRIKE

Struck In Copper



1260. 1855, Fifty Dollars. Copper, Reeded edge. K-3 (Trial strike of Regular K-4), Adams-93. 660.6 grains. Unique. Choice Proof. Bronzed. This is the highlight of JJP's Private and Territorial issues and is, in fact, one of the premier items in the entire Pittman Collection. The color is a uniform deep chocolate brown, and the surfaces, although a trifle dull from the way the coin was stored over the years, are very high quality. There are only a few traces of minor verdigris and carbon, mostly around the letters, and there are virtually no marks or hairlines to speak of. In the field, by stars 1 and 2, there is a huge lint mark. Strictly from a quality standpoint, this piece is superior to most of the gold specimens known. Purchased by JJP for \$125 sometime prior to 1950, the seller and exact date of the transaction unknown. It is interesting to note that this price was less than the amount the coin had realized at the Earle sale nearly 40 years earlier!

Although some have stated that two examples are known of this copper trial strike of the most famous of all California gold issues, I believe that this piece is unique, as does Don Kagin, who so states in his reference work on the subject. The alleged second specimen supposedly was in a Lyman H. Low sale in 1903, but this attribution is in error since no such specimen was sold by Low in 1903. However, Low did sell a specimen in July 1902 as Lot 525 of the Ulex Collection sale. That specimen is the same as the one here offered in the Pittman Collection. It was purchased at the Ulex sale for \$22.50 by S.H. & H. Chapman and sold to George H. Earle. Earle's great collection was auctioned by Henry Chapman in 1912, and this piece was offered as Lot 3783 and was purchased by Virgil Brand for \$160. Thus, the roster of known specimens is very short, just this one piece, with the following pedigree information.

1. John Jay Pittman, the specimen offered here;
Virgil Brand; George H. Earle: 3783; S.H. & H. Chapman;
Ulex: 525. Earlier provenance unknown.

I have found no mention of this piece in any of the great sales of the late 19th Century, and I believe that the Ulex sale represented its first appearance at public sale.

MORMON GOLD PIECES

Salt Lake City, Utah, 1849-1860

RARE 1849 MORMON \$5 GOLD

1261. 1849, Five Dollars. Plain edge. K-2, B-7933, KM-103. 110.1 grains. **Rarity-5.** Very Fine. Medium greenish gold color; dull surfaces with not much luster. The fields have numerous light hairlines and marks. Rare in this grade and very rare significantly finer. Walter Breen estimates that only 5,340 pieces were struck. Purchased by JJP from Ed Shapiro on 2/6/59, along with an 1893 Canada 10 Cents with Round Top 3, for \$357 for the pair. JJP did not indicate how the individual coins were priced, just the total cost.

RARE 1850 MORMON \$5 GOLD

1262. 1850, Five Dollars. Plain edge. K-5, B-7935, KM-104. 107.9 grains. **High Rarity-5.** Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Attractive medium coppery gold color; a trace of luster remains. Light hairlines and abrasions as well as numerous small digs on the obverse below the mitre and on the reverse above the clasped hands. Rare in all grades, somewhat more so than the 1849. Walter Breen, in his Encyclopedia, estimates that only 3,560 pieces were struck. Purchased by JJP from A.H. Baldwin & Son of London, England, 3/24/54, for 25 British Pounds, which was equivalent at the time to approximately \$70.

COLORADO GOLD PIECES

CLARK, GRUBER & CO.

Denver, Colorado, 1860-1861



1263. 1860, Five Dollars. Reeded edge. K-2, B-7940, KM-65. 138.1 grains. **Rarity-4.** Very Fine. Cleaned, now a light greenish gold and copper color, but still with considerable luster. Light to moderate contact marks and hairlines. There is also a rim bruise by the 4th star, and a small planchet imperfection, "as made", below and to the right of the date. Very scarce; Breen estimates an original mintage of only about 6,920 pieces. Purchased from the Dr. Russell H. Renz Collection sale (B. Max Mehl, 3/48), Lot 3919, for \$60.



1264. 1861, 2 1/2 Dollars. Reeded edge. K-5, B-7943, KM-64.1. 71.7 grains. **Rarity-4.** Fine. Coarse reeding. Numerous scratches and digs in the fields, including several rather prominent ones. Moderately scarce; Breen indicates that about 31,800 pieces were struck. Purchased from B. Max Mehl's auction of the Dr. Russell H. Renz Collection, 3/48, Lot 3921, for \$60.

END OF SALE

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Note: In addition to the foregoing, hundreds of auction catalogues from 1860-1997 were reviewed and utilized in the writing of this Pittman catalogue.

The John Jay Pittman Collection

Selected Numismatic Rarities

Part Two

On May 20-21, 1998, Part Two of the John Jay Pittman Collection Sale will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor.

This second sale will consist of more than 800 lots of U.S. Coins, Medals, and Paper Money. Offered in the sale will be the following denominations.

Quarter Dollars
Half Dollars
Silver & Trade Dollars
Original Proof Sets

Quarter Eagles
Three Dollar Gold Pieces
Half Eagles
Eagles

Among the many highlights will be the following:

Quarter Dollars: Proofs of 1822, 1827, 1828, 1831, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1838, and 1839; plus early Bust issues in Mint State, as well as Proofs and business strikes of the 1840's and 1850's.

Half Dollars: Proofs of 1820, 1821, 1822, 1826, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833 CLE, 1834 CLE, 1835 CLE, 1838 and 1839 With Drapery; plus Mint State Bust issues and many Proofs and business strikes of the 1840's and 1850's.

Silver Dollars: Proofs of 1840, 1841, 1842, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1852, 1853 and 1854-1858; plus Mint State examples of 1850-O and 1851.

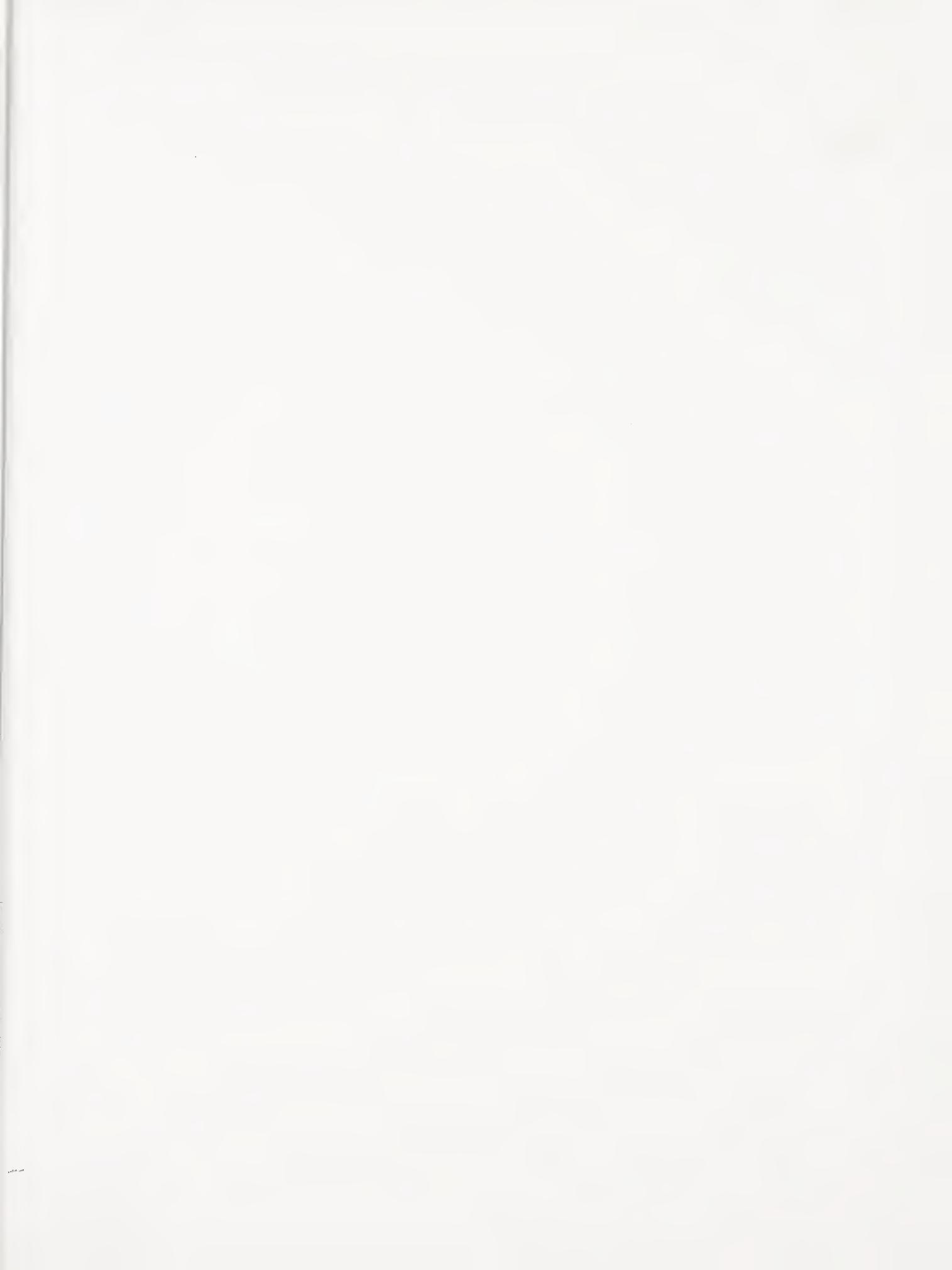
Proof Sets: 1845 w/Gold, 1846 w/Gold, and 1868, all in original presentation cases.

Quarter Eagles: Proofs of 1834, 1835, 1836 and 1848; plus high grade business strikes of 1802/1, 1804 13 Stars, 1831, and many C and D Mint issues. Complete Proofs from 1888-1907, as well as other Proofs from the 1860's and 1870's.

Half Eagles: Proof 1835.

Eagles: Proofs of 1838 and 1848; plus Mint State examples of 1800, 1804 and 1839 Type '40. Complete Proofs from 1888-1907, and Mint State 1908-D With Motto, 1915-S, and 1930-S.

Catalogues will be mailed in mid-April 1998.
We invite your participation in this important numismatic event.



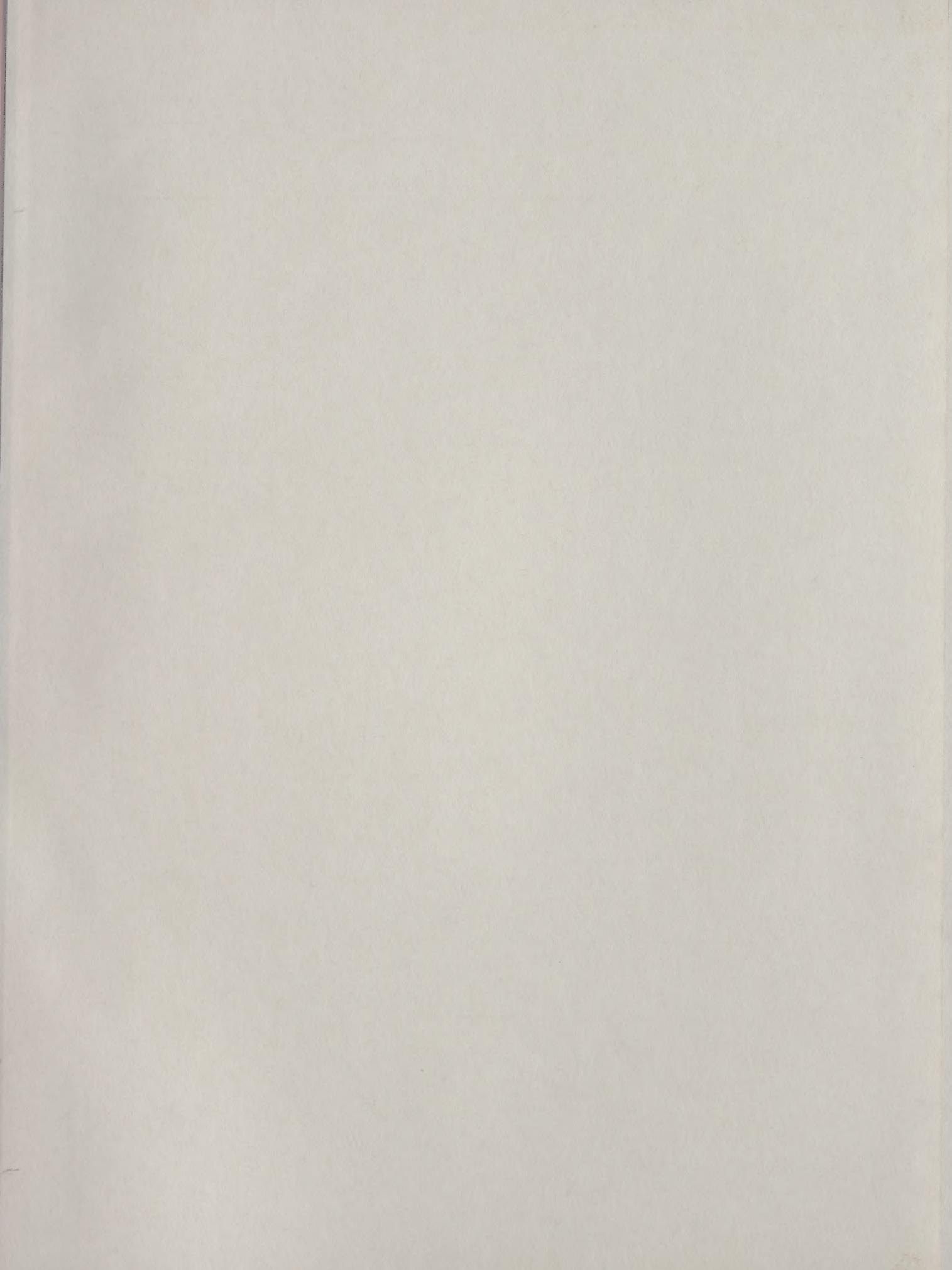


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Part One

